

Gunmen fire on UN Beirut mercy convoy

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Beirut

Gunmen shot out the tyres of two UN trucks carrying food for some 20,000 hungry Palestinians of Bourj el-Barajneh last night, destroying the latest opportunity of getting supplies into the besieged camp.

Two other truckloads of UN help made it safely to a nearby base of the Shia Muslim Amal Militia.

Simultaneous distribution of equal amounts of food to the camp and Amal could have taken the edge off the bitter conflict between the poorest people of Beirut.

The shots were fired near the entrance of the camp. Drivers and officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Lebanon jumped out of their vehicles and ran for cover until Mr Per Olof Hallqvist, the Swedish director of UNRWA in Lebanon, called off the attempt and left the trucks paralysed on the road to Bourj el-Barajneh.

A Palestinian spokesman blamed Justice Minister Mr Nabih Berri's Amal militia-men for firing on the trucks. Amal made no immediate comment.

Hopes of getting food into the sprawling shantytown on

Beirut's southern outskirts were dashed after day-long clashes in Beirut and an air strike by Israeli helicopter gunships against Palestinian positions in south Lebanon.

● **Boy's story:** The siege of Bourj el-Barajneh has forced its 35,000 inhabitants to eat cats, dogs and rats but Fadi Shaker, aged 12, who sneaked out from the camp, said: "Almost every man, woman and child has eaten cats or dogs, donkeys or mules. Now there's a shortage of animals." (AP reports from Beirut).

Mr Berri earlier promised to order a 12-hour truce in the fighting around Bourj el-

Gemayel plea 7
Briton in camp 7

Barajneh to allow supplies into the camp as long as an equal amount of food was sent to his Shiite community. The UN agency agreed.

UNRWA's mandate is to serve Palestinian refugees. To achieve this goal, the headquarters in Vienna agreed to Mr Berri's conditions, said a spokeswoman.

Amal militia-men allowed about 125 Palestinians to leave Bourj el-Barajneh yesterday, bringing to 275 the number of women and children who have been allowed to leave the besieged shantytown.

All went to west Beirut's Mar Elias camp, controlled by Druse militia-men, who have stayed neutral in the camps fighting.

Police said six people were killed and 14 wounded in Friday's clashes with mortars and rocket-propelled grenades around Bourj el-Barajneh and the nearby Chatilla camp.

The casualties raised the toll

from three months of fighting in Beirut and south Lebanon to at least 564 killed and 1,449 wounded.

Palestinian spokesmen accused Amal of firing mortar shells at Bourj el-Barajneh at midday, killing five children and wounding 10.

Amal accused the guerrillas of "intermittently shelling" Shia slums ringing the camp, killing one person and wounding four.

Police said four guerrillas of Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization were wounded in the 15-minute attack on buildings in the Mieh Mieh camp outside Sidon, 25 miles south of Beirut.

Three gunships swept in at 1 a.m. on Thursday as Israeli fighters dropped flares to illuminate five targets in and around the hillside camp, police reported.

It was Israel's first night-time air attack in about two years. The Israeli command said its pilots reported accurate hits on guerrilla headquarters buildings.

Police said the buildings were used by Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction, which has been making a comeback after being driven out of Lebanon by the 1982 Israeli invasion.

Israeli fighter-bombers blasted Fatah bases near Mieh Mieh on Thursday. Police said one civilian was killed and three people, including two guerrillas, were wounded.

Yesterday's air raid was the sixth this year in Lebanon.

Amal announced yesterday that its militia-men have returned to positions around Christian town of Maghdousheh, 3 miles south-east of Sidon after they had been evacuated by the Palestinians.



An armed Shia Muslim Amal militiaman talking to Palestinian children who are among the hundreds of refugees sheltering in a school after fleeing Beirut's Bourj el-Barajneh camp.

Thatcher rounds on farmer critics

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

The Prime Minister yesterday intensified the running battle between her ministers and the National Farmers' Union.

In a letter remarkable for its bluntness to a traditional bastion of Conservative support, Mrs Thatcher told the NFU president, Mr Simon Gourlay, that she found it "astonishing" that the NFU should have passed a vote of no confidence in the Government.

In a particularly sharp passage she added: "You are ready to acknowledge the problems of over-production, but you seem unwilling to face up to the consequences of tackling them."

Mrs Thatcher wrote to Mr Gourlay after he had sent her a copy of his speech at the NFU's meeting on Tuesday which passed the vote of no confidence and resolved that Mr Michael Jopling, the Minister for Agriculture, should show more commitment to farmers or resign.

In a strong defence of her ministers she stressed that the Government was this year spending more than £2,500 million on food support.

She recognized farmers' fears now that reform of the CAP was under way and accepted that the rural economy needed help to cope with change. "But I do not accept that the decisions taken at the December (European) Council were contrary either to the interests of agriculture or the nation generally."

"It helps no-one for resources to be wasted in producing unsaleable surpluses which then have to be stored and disposed of at huge expense to the taxpayer."

The Prime Minister praised Mr Jopling's success in Brussels in resisting proposals which would have discriminated against UK agriculture.

Mr Gourlay yesterday countered that the NFU had long acknowledged the problems of overproduction and the need for cutbacks and it welcomed much in Mr Jopling's package.

"But the point is that as far as incomes are concerned it does not begin to scratch the problem and it only ticks the problem about switching land to alternative use."

Evil preacher, page 3

Burton takeover may be target of DTI inquiry

By Lawrence Lever

The Government is believed to be gathering evidence on the controversial £550 million takeover of Debenhams by the Burton Group which may lead to a formal investigation into the High Street retail chain.

Rumours have been circulating in the City that Burton, chaired by Sir Ralph Halpern, would be the next target for a Department of Trade investigation.

The Guinness inspectors have been taking evidence on oath from key characters who were involved in both bids.

The inspectors are believed to have uncovered evidence which may warrant a formal investigation, and the DTI is understood to be making informal moves to collate further evidence.

The evidence, while apparently causing great concern at the DTI, is not yet sufficient to launch a formal investigation under the Companies Act.

A DTI spokesman yesterday scotched City rumours that a formal investigation would be announced over the weekend.

He refused to comment on whether the DTI has sought share trading records about the Burton bid for Debenhams from the Stock Exchange.

The inspectors' inquiries have drawn in Mr Gerald Ronson of Heron International and Mr Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker. Mr

Parnes built up a crucial stake in Debenhams for Mr Ronson and Sir Philip Harris of Harris Queensway which was voted in Burton's favour at the eleventh hour and secured victory for Burton.

Cazenove & Co, whose role in the Guinness bid has come under intense scrutiny, were also one of the stockbrokers to Burton.

The bid for Debenhams' only went through at the last minute and was subsequently investigated by the City's Takeover Panel.

By 3pm on the last day of the bid Burton only had secured control of 38.4 per cent of Debenhams. However a few hours later, after the deadline for acceptances had been extended, this stake had increased rapidly to 53 per cent.

The rise in acceptances was partly due to Mr Ronson and Sir Philip who decided to accept the Burton bid - after 3pm. They had 13 million shares between them.

The Panel's investigation cleared Burton.

Mr Tim Bell an adviser to Burton, would make no official comment last night.

Mr Olivier Roux, the former Guinness finance director, yesterday resigned from Bain & Co, the management consultant. Mr Roux was involved in the Guinness share price support operations. Details, page 17

Luggage error claim in Hall drug case

From Our Own Correspondent, Barbados

Mrs Jane Branke, a key prosecution witness at the trial of the American model, Miss Jerry Hall, told the court she made a mistake when she gave Miss Hall a box full of marijuana in Barbados Airport.

"In my opinion the box was not Miss Hall's," said Mrs Branke, an agent for Mustique Airlines. Her evidence had been crucial to the police case against the 30-year-old model who is charged with receiving the drugs at Barbados Airport on January 20.

Miss Hall, companion of the singer Mick Jagger for the past decade, looked tense during the session at Oistins

magistrates court. Mr Jagger, aged 43, sat among a pack of British reporters as the proceedings were conducted by the island's chief magistrate, Mr Frank King.

Mrs Branke's evidence was used by Miss Hall's lawyer, Mr Henry Foad, to show that the box of marijuana had no connection with her. The airline agent said she wrote Miss Hall's name, miss-spelling it, on the box after it arrived with no markings or address from St Vincent.

Miss Hall faces a possible two-year prison term on charges of possessing the 20.5lb of marijuana. The case was adjourned until Monday.

Brutal attack on protesting Moscow Jews

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The stiff internal resistance to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of *glasnost* (openness) was brutally demonstrated near the centre of Moscow yesterday when scores of security men in plain clothes launched their most vicious series of attacks against peaceful Jewish demonstrators and Western reporters since Mr Gorbachev took power in 1985.

After being punched, jostled and abused by burly men in plain clothes - many wearing identical tartan scarves - I was present as they repeatedly kicked a female Jewish "refusenik" in the breasts and kidneys as she screamed in agony and pleaded for help from a uniformed militiaman who looked on with studied indifference.

The demonstrator, Natalia Beckman, was dragged away by her hair and arms from the main Arbat shopping mall as at least six of the men savagely kicked her until she was dumped nearly unconscious in the snow. Friends called an ambulance, but she was taken away by another car driven by a Russian in military uniform before it arrived.

Despite the severity of the women's condition, the car driver was ordered by one of the security men not to offer assistance.

The security men, who numbered nearly 100 and had been gathered in knots of four and five before the small protest by 15-20 Soviet Jews began, also hurled to the ground a woman television producer from the US Cable News network.

The incidents with the women were among the ugliest I have witnessed in many years in covering street unrest in places as far apart as Belfast and the Israeli-occupied West Bank. They were accompanied by a steady stream of anti-Semitic abuse. I heard one Russian shout at a Jewish woman demonstrator: "Hitler did not get enough of you Jews."

Security men systematically

ripped cables from all cameras attempting to record their heavy-handed attempt to break up the protest in support of the imprisoned dissident, Mr Iosif Begun.

The attacks on the cameras were a deliberate attempt to prevent the outside world seeing the naked attempts by the security men to prevent the demonstration taking place for the fifth day in succession. Two members of an American CBS television crew were arrested, as was a reporter for the *Baltimore Sun*.

Later, together with *The Guardian* correspondent and two other Western reporters, I was detained for some 30 minutes in militia station.

The Foreign Office said the behaviour of the Moscow police showed that the Soviet Union had not altered, in spite of Mr Gorbachev's policy of liberalization. The British embassy in Moscow was still trying to ascertain the facts.

number 5 where I had gone to interview the arrested journalists and protesters.

It was not until the intervention of an official from the Foreign Ministry that we were allowed to leave. A BBC reporter who came to find us was driven back and kicked by uniformed militiamen from the scrutiny detention centre. Earlier government claims that all attacks on the demonstrators and Western news-men had been the work of freelance Soviet "vigilantes" were exposed as nonsense when many of the agents involved in the violence came into the station to mount guard.

Among the five Jewish demonstrators held was Mr Boris Begun, aged 22, son of the jailed Jewish dissident who was recently refused a pardon because he refused to sign a pledge that he would not continue to take part in "anti-state" activities.

Media event, page 6
Leading article, page 13

Rise in inflation rate fuels City concern

The rate of inflation rose to 3.9 per cent last month from 3.7 per cent in December and there are fears in the City that the rate could reach 6 per cent by the summer, unless the Chancellor can engineer a cut in mortgage rates, writes David Smith.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Paymaster General, said that 1986 had the lowest inflation rate since 1967, and that the small upturn last month was largely because of the bad weather.

"Controlling inflation re-

mains a priority," he added. But Opposition spokesmen claimed that the January rise in prices was the beginning of a sharp and sustained increase in inflation.

The retail prices index stood at 394.5 (January 1974 = 100) last month, an increase of 0.4 per cent from the December level of 393.0.

The index is to be rebased to January 1987, taking out the rapid inflation of the 1970s and early 1980s, but this is unlikely to affect inflation rates significantly.

INSIDE Black boy athlete barred

A political row has been started by the exclusion of a black Natal schoolboy from an annual inter-schools athletics meeting at a Pretoria high school today.

At least 100 of the 340 athletes from Natal schools due to take part in the games were reported to have withdrawn in protest. Page 6

TIMES BUSINESS

Easy shares

Brokers are now making it easier for the small investor to deal in shares just as state-owned companies are being privatized. Family Money, pages 22 to 30

TIMES SPORT

Anthem KO

The national anthem is to be banned at championship contests as part of a plan by the British Boxing Board of Control to combat hooliganism. Page 36

Valentine's competition

Valentine's Day verses specially composed for *The Times* by Laurie Lee, Lady Wilson, Bob Geldof, Barbara Cartland, Bob Hoskins, Frederick Forsyth and others are among the contents of today's Saturday section, which appears as a separate section of the paper. For those who think they could do as well as (or better than) our chosen poets, there is a competition to win a *de luxe* night for two in Mayfair, worth £1,000. Also in the section are features on holidays in Mauritius, cooking rhubarb and listening to the Beatles on compact disc.

Portfolio Gold

● There is £20,000 to be won today in the Times Portfolio Gold competition - the weekly prize is doubled to £16,000 because there was no winner last week and there is the normal daily prize of £4,000.

● Yesterday's daily total was shared by three readers, including one who has been a winner before. Details, page 3.

● Portfolio lists, pages 21 and 29.

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British Star Wars work 'near £50m'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Star Wars research contracts worth more than £50 million should be in progress in British universities, industry and Government laboratories by December.

The estimate by Dr Stanley Orman, director-general of the Strategic Defence Initiative Office of the Ministry of Defence in London, is based on the number of contracts won since the first in January last year.

But the value of the research is a long way short of the £1 billion promised by Mr Michael Heseltine, when he signed the treaty for Anglo-American co-operation. The latest contract, worth almost £530,000 is for work shared between the universities at Newcastle, Aston, Strathclyde and London.

Further contracts may be jeopardised by a recent action in the American Senate, which voted to restrict SDI research done abroad only to work that could not possibly be conducted in the United States. This would prevent the US government from awarding contracts worth more than

\$100,000 to foreign companies.

The investigation of the four British universities is connected with the unprecedented amount of power that will be needed for a space-based laser and particle beam weapons.

The SDI satellites will have the equivalent of the normal grid power supply of 240 volt alternating current for routine purposes, and much higher levels when weapons are fired.

Professor Owen Farish of Strathclyde University's department of electronic and electrical engineering, who has been awarded about £250,000 for two SDI contracts concerning electrical supply protection, says firing of Star Wars weapons may involve pulses of millions of volts.

This is far above the levels now used in spacecraft, and research is needed to find chemical additives which can help prevent the breakdown of the vital insulators.

He said there was likely to be considerable spin-offs from the research, which was unclassified, and the results of which would be published.

MPs hail rape jailings

MPs last night welcomed the 16-year sentence on a preacher for raping virgins and called for women judges to hear rape cases.

The demand came after Judge Nina Lowry at the Central Criminal Court described Cecil Gilbert, a twice-married father of seven children, as evil.

Another judge at the court sentenced a man aged 20 to fourteen and a half years for rape and assault on a girl.

Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, said: "It has taken a woman judge to do at last what the nation has been crying out for years."

Yesterday's two stiff sentences for rape came a week after another judge was criticized by MPs over "lenient" sentences in the Ealing vicarage rape case.

Evil preacher, page 3

Doctors detect a second Aids virus in Europe

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

The first case of Aids in Europe caused by a second form of the virus was reported to doctors meeting at University College, London, by Professor Luc Montagnier, whose team originally discovered the source of the illness.

Professor Montagnier, from the Institut Pasteur in Paris, said French specialists were initially baffled by a patient who had developed the full Aids condition.

The results of a screening test for antibodies were negative. When present they demonstrated that the body's defence system has responded

to infection by HIV-1, the human immuno deficiency virus.

The diagnosis came from cultures infected with the patient's T-cells, and grown in the laboratory, from which the virus was isolated. It was found to be a type discovered early last year in prostitutes in west Africa and called HIV-2.

But this type of virus had not been diagnosed previously in Europe. Furthermore, the patient had not been in Africa. Professor Montagnier said a new test was planned to screen simultaneously for antibodies to HIV-1 and HIV-2.

He also said that France was spending £30 million on re-

search into Aids, compared with £12 million currently being spent by the Medical Research Council in the UK. Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, has asked his Cabinet colleagues for a further £10 million to be spent on research.

The arrival of HIV-2 adds to the problems of monitoring the spread of the disease and of screening blood donations.

Medical advisers to the DHSS are also considering development of an additional test. However, they were already doubtful about the prospects for a universal test because of the signs showing

that a number Aids-related viruses could be expected to emerge.

Professor Montagnier was invited to London to lecture on the progress at the Pasteur. He supervises one of the largest teams conducting research into understanding the molecular biology of the Aids virus, potential vaccines and drugs that may alleviate its worst effects.

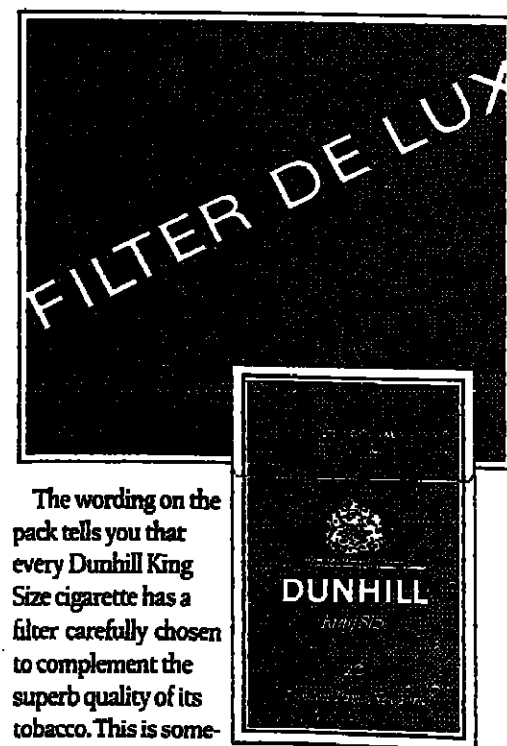
The only larger group, and with which a bitter Franco-American rivalry has developed over claims to the original discovery, is managed by Dr Robert Gallo, at the National Institutes for Health in America.

Wellcome, the pharmaceutical company, yesterday announced that its new anti-Aids drug Retrovir would be priced provisionally at £124 for a bottle of 100 capsules (Alison Eadie writes).

The company is thought to have spent over £50 million on research on the drug so far. Wellcome hopes that Retrovir will obtain a product licence from the USA Food and Drug Administration within weeks.

The British Committee on the Safety of Medicines meets before the end of this month to consider when and if the drug should be sold in Britain. Catholic challenge, page 3

The King Size from Dunhill



The wording on the pack tells you that every Dunhill King Size cigarette has a filter carefully chosen to complement the superb quality of its tobacco. This is something you will appreciate only when you enjoy its exceptional smoothness.

Blended to your taste

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LOW TO MIDDLE TAR As defined by H.M. Government
STOPPING SMOKING REDUCES THE RISK
OF SERIOUS DISEASES
Health Departments' Chief Medical Officers

NEWS SUMMARY

Three nominees for Oxford post

For the first time in its history, Oxford University yesterday announced that it had three candidates for the chancellor's post.

The post was first created in 1224 and there has never been more than two contenders.

The former Prime Minister, Mr Edward Heath, the SDP founder, Mr Roy Jenkins, and Lord Blake, the historian, have been formally nominated to take over from the late Lord Stockton.

Nominations officially close on March 2. The electorate will choose the new chancellor among the members of Convocation which, in theory, includes some 40,000 Oxford graduates who have paid for their formal M.A. But only a fraction of that number are expected to turn out to vote on March 12 and 14.

Three shot dead

Detectors last night began a murder inquiry into the deaths of a woman and her two children found shot through the head in their south London home. The woman's husband was discovered severely wounded and taken to hospital.

At breakfast time yesterday neighbours of the family in Mundania Road, Peckham, heard a series of sounds coming from the council maisonette.

Mr Charles Dove was lying in the bathroom still alive in spite of a severe head wound. His wife Catherine lay dead in bed. His son Gary, in his mid-teens, lay in his bedroom and the boy's sister, Joanna, aged 10 or 12, was dead in her room. All had head injuries.

Guinness inquiry

A leading expert in commercial law is advising the Director of Public Prosecutions' staff on the criminal ramifications of the Guinness investigation.

The expert, as yet unnamed, is working with members of the Crown Prosecution Service, headed by the DPP, as they liaise with the Department of Trade and Industry.

A spokesman said Sir Thomas Hetherington, the director, had yet to decide on what action would be taken over Guinness and whether Scotland Yard's fraud squad would be called in.

Actress's libel blow

Charlotte Cornwell (right), the actress, must give back the £10,000 libel damages she was awarded for being labelled "wally of the week" with a "big bum".

She also faces a £30,000 bill for costs after the Court of Appeal yesterday ordered a new trial of her action against Miss Nina Myskow, the television critic.

The court allowed an appeal by Miss Myskow and *Sunday People* which published the article in May 1983, ruling that the trial judge had misdirected the jury.

Journalists working at Westminster voted by 54 to 31 yesterday not to sign an oath to obey the rules governing "off-the-record" briefings by government spokesmen.

A four-man inquiry into the parliamentary lobby rules had recommended journalists should take an oath because of the decision by *The Guardian* and *The Independent* not to attend non-attributable briefings.

Their main target were the daily briefings by Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary.

Telecom 'back to normal'

All 110,000 British Telecom telephone engineers are expected to be working normally by Monday. Discussions between management and union leaders have apparently clarified problems arising out of the acceptance of a 12.66 per cent two-year pay deal, which involved changes in working practices.

About 9,000 members of the National Communications Union had rebelled over what they claimed were management attempts to abandon their nine-day fortnight.

One hard-line area, Liverpool, returned to work after an agreement which means they will be paid overtime to work a five-day week until the end of March. It will enable the company to clear up the backlog of faults caused by the 17-day stoppage. Similar deals have been applied to other areas.

The Liberal leader's unusually personal attack was prompted by Mr Tebbit's suggestion this week that the Lib-Lab pact of 1977 was evidence of how the Alliance was "secretly plotting to put Labour into office."

In fact, Mr Steel said, it was the Conservatives who were

Awacs firm to reduce workforce by 500

By Michael Evans
Whitehall Correspondent

One of the British firms expecting to win contracts after the Government's order for six American airborne early warning E-3A Awacs has announced that it is to cut its workforce by 500 within the next two years.

Ferranti, which, with Racal and Plessey, signed an agreement with the US company Boeing for a share-out of the offset work arising from the Awacs deal, is hoping that the cuts in staff can be achieved without redundancies.

Yesterday Mr Bob Elliott, of the white collar union TASS, claimed that Ferranti had thought it would get more orders from Boeing.

The defence company admitted that the potential Awacs contracts to supply airborne data links would be slow in coming and were not expected to boost jobs at the computer systems plants at Bracknell in Berkshire and Cwmbran in south Wales.

However a spokesman said: "The need to reduce the staff from 4,000 to 3,500 in the next 18 months to two years has

nothing to do with the Awacs contracts. There are no orders yet. We don't expect anything for about two years and it will all be spread out."

The Government has still not formally signed the contract with Boeing to supply six Awacs.

GEC Avionics, which lost out in the Nimrod-Awacs battle in December, has already given legal notice of up to 1,950 redundancies at its Herefordshire plant although many of the staff would be redeployed.

Ferranti said yesterday that

the 500 jobs would need to be lost from the support service areas involved in installing and maintaining computer systems on warships and fighter aircraft.

The company is currently competing for the contract to fit its CACS4 computer system into the Royal Navy's new generation of Type 23 frigates.

A contract was awarded to Ferranti over a year ago but last November the Ministry of Defence invited other companies to compete because of concern that technology had advanced

Trade union officials who have been trying to stop or delay the handover of the Royal Naval dockyard at Devonport to a commercial management company in April were told yesterday that the Government is determined to push ahead with the transfer.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, made it quite clear to representatives of the unions at a meeting at the Ministry of Defence that the changeover at Devonport would not be postponed.

Rival for British satellite TV service

By Jonathan Miller
Media Correspondent

An affiliate company of News International is considering launching a new English-language satellite television service for viewers across Europe.

The service would be transmitted using the French-made TDF-1 broadcasting satellite expected to be launched later this year, or early 1988.

A decision to officially declare an interest in going ahead with the plan may be taken as early as next week, the deadline set by the French government for proposals from prospective users of the satellite.

If the plan goes ahead, the service could be in operation a year or more before the launch of the British Satellite Broadcasting television system authorized last December by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

The TDF-1 satellite carries high-powered transmitters which would enable its signal to be received throughout Britain on roof-top dish aerials with a diameter of two feet, and costing about £300.

The satellite will be located with others that together will offer 10 programme channels by 1988.

The venture is being considered by Media International, a Brussels company jointly owned by News International and Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, the Belgian financial group which holds a controlling interest in Radio-Tele Luxembourg.

The joint venture is considering taking two of the four channels on the satellite. One may be used to broadcast a version of Sky Channel, the mass-entertainment service supported by advertising, which already serves almost 10 million European and British homes via cable television links. The other could be used for a pay-per-view subscription television channel.

Mr Patrick Cox, chief executive of Sky, said the costs of the venture were "terrifying".

Direct Broadcasting Limited, one of the unsuccessful contenders for the British satellite television franchise, is expected to re-launch next week with a new business plan, calling for it to become a provider of subscription television technical services.

The company, in which News International is a minority shareholder, hopes to provide systems allowing programmers to scramble their transmissions, with only fee-paying subscribers able to watch them.

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Sterling fall will swallow extra funds for science

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Government yesterday confirmed a £27 million increase in the science budget for 1987-88 to a total of £657 million.

Although that represents a 3 per cent increase in real terms most of the extra money will be swallowed up by increases in subscriptions to international organizations which have risen as a result of the fall in the value of the pound.

Last night, Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader, condemned the Government's policy on science and research as "incoherent" and attacked it for failing to halt the brain drain.

The science budget, from which the research councils receive their grants, was originally set at £630 million for 1987-88. But last November Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced a planned increase of £24 million.

That increase has now been confirmed, subject to formal approval by Parliament, with the addition of a further £3 million.

Of that, £1 million goes to the Medical Research Council for further research into AIDS and £2 million has been transferred to the science budget from other government departments to pay for subscriptions to the European Space Agency.

The biggest gainer in the allocation of the budget, announced in a parliamentary answer from Mr George Walden, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Education and Science, is the Science and Engineering Research Council.

Its grant goes up from £315.5 million in 1986-87 to £350.25 million.

Dr Owen said: "This modest increase in the science budget will not stop the brain drain."

"University research depends on resources coming

both from the University Grants Committee and the research councils. Forcing universities to cut back by chopping their UGC allocations cannot be ameliorated by slightly increasing the science budget."

Dr Owen, in a speech to the Cornwall branch of the Institute of Training and Development earlier, said that the brain drain was probably the most menacing challenge facing Britain and attacked Mrs Thatcher for attempting to use it as an argument to reduce the top 60 per cent tax rate.

"To use the brain drain as an argument to reduce the 60 per cent tax level on salaries over £40,000 is to twist the evidence in a way that brings discredit on the Prime Minister as an (honorary) fellow of the Royal Society."

He said that of the one thousand fellows of the Royal Society 82 had addresses in the United States.

"If Britain is to stop the brain drain then Mrs Thatcher has to recognize that there must be more funds and facilities in the UK, prospects of promotion for established researchers must improve and young researchers must be able to get more jobs."

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"The projected higher education budget over the next three years is for real terms a standstill, with a £0.3 million cut in capital spending."

Money was not everything but there had been an increasingly tight squeeze over several years, made worse by a UGC allocation which had consistently penalized many of the science, technology and management education universities and colleges.

University research depends on resources coming

both from the University Grants Committee and the research councils. Forcing universities to cut back by chopping their UGC allocations cannot be ameliorated by slightly increasing the science budget."

Dr Owen, in a speech to the Cornwall branch of the Institute of Training and Development earlier, said that the brain drain was probably the most menacing challenge facing Britain and attacked Mrs Thatcher for attempting to use it as an argument to reduce the top 60 per cent tax rate.

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Miss Deirdre Wood, the Labour candidate, exchanging views yesterday with her Conservative rival, Mr John Antcliffe, during their campaigns.

Greenwich by-election

Poll result rattles Tories

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Greenwich by-election provided the setting for a renewed outbreak of hostilities between the BBC and a distinctly rattled Conservative Party yesterday.

It was two of their more robust personalities rather than the institutions themselves that clashed. Mrs Angela Rumbold, the Minister of State for Education, accused *Newsnight* of conducting "dodgy" polls, and Mr Vincent Hanna, the *Newsnight* presenter, responded with howls of outrage and the threat of writs.

Mrs Rumbold, drafted in for the Conservative candidate's morning press conference, claimed that a recent *Newsnight* poll showing the Alliance leap-frogging the Tories and catching up on Labour had been conducted by a local Liberal councillor.

"What you have just said is totally untrue," Mr Hanna shouted from the back of the room.

When the conference finished, a furious Mr Hanna approached Mrs Rumbold, accused her of lying and libelling the BBC, and asked how she dared undermine his credibility in front of the press. "I will take up the matter in court," he said.

At the heart of the dispute was the involvement in the poll of Dr David Woodhead, a senior politics lecturer at the Thames Polytechnic, who is also an Alliance councillor.

Dr Woodhead was credited on *Newsnight* with members of the *Newsnight* team insisting yesterday that he had merely been one of three supervisors who had trained students in how to conduct the survey. He had had absolutely nothing to

do with drafting the questions or analysing the results.

As the first full week of the campaign ended, all three camps managed to claim that things were going their way.

The SDP claimed that Mrs Rosie Barnes had succeeded in establishing herself as the clear challenger to Labour and the Alliance believed it could win.

To be seen as the clear challenger, and thus the natural receptacle of votes from the other parties, is vital to both the Alliance and the Conservatives. The *Newsnight* polls were in that respect very damaging to the Tories, and Mrs Rumbold's attack yesterday was interpreted by many observers as a sign of growing Tory fear of the Alliance towagon.

Several election polls (Lab 15.36; SDP 15.36; T 15.36; U 15.36; F 15.36; G 15.36; B 15.36; M 15.36; P 15.36; S 15.36; H 15.36; J 15.36; K 15.36; L 15.36; O 15.36; Q 15.36; R 15.36; T 15.36; V 15.36; W 15.36; X 15.36; Y 15.36; Z 15.36; AA 15.36; AB 15.36; AC 15.36; AD 15.36; AE 15.36; AF 15.36; AG 15.36; AH 15.36; AI 15.36; AJ 15.36; AK 15.36; AL 15.36; AM 15.36; AN 15.36; AO 15.36; AP 15.36; AQ 15.36; AR 15.36; AS 15.36; AT 15.36; AU 15.36; AV 15.36; AW 15.36; AX 15.36; AY 15.36; AZ 15.36; BA 15.36; BB 15.36; BC 15.36; BD 15.36; BE 15.36; BF 15.36; BG 15.36; BH 15.36; BI 15.36; BJ 15.36; BK 15.36; BL 15.36; BM 15.36; BN 15.36; BO 15.36; BP 15.36; BQ 15.36; BR 15.36; BS 15.36; BT 15.36; BU 15.36; BV 15.36; BW 15.36; BX 15.36; BY 15.36; BZ 15.36; CA 15.36; CB 15.36; CC 15.36; CD 15.36; CE 15.36; CF 15.36; CG 15.36; CH 15.36; CI 15.36; CJ 15.36; CK 15.36; CL 15.36; CM 15.36; CN 15.36; CO 15.36; CP 15.36; CQ 15.36; CR 15.36; CS 15.36; CT 15.36; CU 15.36; CV 15.36; CW 15.36; CX 15.36; CY 15.36; CZ 15.36; DA 15.36; DB 15.36; DC 15.36; DD 15.36; DE 15.36; DF 15.36; DG 15.36; DH 15.36; DI 15.36; DJ 15.36; DK 15.36; DL 15.36; DM 15.36; DN 15.36; DO 15.36; DP 15.36; DQ 15.36; DR 15.36; DS 15.36; DT 15.36; DU 15.36; DV 15.36; DW 15.36; DX 15.36; DY 15.36; DZ 15.36; EA 15.36; EB 15.36; EC 15.36; ED 15.36; EE 15.36; EF 15.36; EG 15.36; EH 15.36; EI 15.36; EJ 15.36; EK 15.36; EL 15.36; EM 15.36; EN 15.36; EO 15.36; EP 15.36; EQ 15.36; ER 15.36; ES 15.36; ET 15.36; EU 15.36; EV 15.36; EW 15.36; EX 15.36; EY 15.36; EZ 15.36; FA 15.36; FB 15.36; FC 15.36; FD 15.36; FE 15.36; FF 15.36; FG 15.36; FH 15.36; FI 15.36; FJ 15.36; FK 15.36; FL 15.36; FM 15.36; FN 15.36; FO 15.36; FP 15.36; FQ 15.36; FR 15.36; FS 15.36; FT 15.36; FU 15.36; FV 15.36; FW 15.36; FX 15.36; FY 15.36; FZ 15.36; GA 15.36; GB 15.36; GC 15.36; GD 15.36; GE 15.36; GF 15.36; GG 15.36; GH 15.36; GI 15.36; GJ 15.36; GK 15.36; GL 15.36; GM 15.36; GN 15.36; GO 15.36; GP 15.36; GQ 15.36; GR 15.36; GS 15.36; GT 15.36; GU 15.36; GV 15.36; GW 15.36; GX 15.36; GY 15.36; GZ 15.36; HA 15.36; HB 15.36; HC 15.36; HD 15.36; HE 15.36; HF 15.36; HG 15.36; HH 15.36; HI 15.36; HJ 15.36; HK 15.36; HL 15.36; HM 15.36; HN 15.36; HO 15.36; HP 15.36; HQ 15.36; HR 15.36; HS 15.36; HT 15.36; HU 15.36; HV 15.36; HW 15.36; HX 15.36; HY 15.36; HZ 15.36; IA 15.36; IB 15.36; IC 15.36; ID 15.36; IE 15.36; IF 15.36; IG 15.36; IH 15.36; II 15.36; IJ 15.36; IK 15.36; IL 15.36; IM 15.36; IN 15.36; IO 15.36; IP 15.36; IQ 15.36; IR 15.36; IS 15.36; IT 15.36; IU 15.36; IV 15.36; IW 15.36; IX 15.36; IY 15.36; IZ 15.36; JA 15.36; JB 15.36; JC 15.36; JD 15.36; JE 15.36; JF 15.36; JG 15.36; JH 15.36; JI 15.36; JJ 15.36; JK 15.36; JL 15.36; JM 15.36; JN 15.36; JO 15.36; JP 15.36; JQ 15.36; JR 15.36; JS 15.36; JT 15.36; JU 15.36; JV 15.36; JW 15.36; JX 15.36; JY 15.36; JZ 15.36; KA 15.36; KB 15.36; KC 15.36; KD 15.36; KE 15.36; KF 15.36; KG 15.36; KH 15.36; KI 15.36; KJ 15.36; KL 15.36; KM 15.36; KN 15.36; KO 15.36; KP 15.36; KQ 15.36; KR 15.36; KS 15.36; KT 15.36; KU 15.36; KV 15.36; KW 15.36; KX 15.36; KY 15.36; KZ 15.36; LA 15.36; LB 15.36; LC 15.36; LD 15.36; LE 15.36; LF 15.36; LG 15.36; LH 15.36; LI 15.36; LJ 15.36; LK 15.36; LL 15.36; LM 15.36; LN 15.36; LO 15.36; LP 15.36; LQ 15.36; LR 15.36; LS 15.36; LT 15.36; LU 15.36; LV 15.36; LW 15.36; LX 15.36; LY 15.36; LZ 15.36; MA 15.36; MB 15.36; MC 15.36; MD 15.36; ME 15.36; MF 15.36; MG 15.36; MH 15.36; MI 15.36; MJ 15.36; MK 15.36; ML 15.36; MM 15.36; MN 15.36; MO 15.36; MP 15.36; MQ 15.36; MR 15.36; MS 15.36; MT 15.36; MU 15.36; MV 15.36; MW 15.36; MX 15.36; MY 15.36; MZ 15.36; NA 15.36; NB 15.36; NC 15.36; ND 15.36; NE 15.36; NF 15.36; NG 15.36; NH 15.36; NI 15.36; NJ 15.36; NK 15.36; NL 15.36; NM 15.36; NN 15.36; NO 15.36; NP 15.36; NQ 15.36; NR 15.36; NS 15.36; NT 15.36; NU 15.36; NV 15.36; NW 15.36; NX 15.36; NY 15.36; NZ 15.36; OA 15.36; OB 15.36; OC 15.36; OD 15.36; OE 15.36; OF 15.36; OG 15.36; OH 15.36; OI 15.36; OJ 15.36; OK 15.36; OL 15.36; OM 15.36; ON 15.36; OO 15.36; OP 15.36; OQ 15.36; OR 15.36; OS 15.36; OT 15.36; OU 15.36; OV 15.36; OW 15.36; OX 15.36; OY 15.36; OZ 15.36; PA 15.36; PB 15.36; PC 15.36; PD 15.36; PE 15.36; PF 15.36; PG 15.36; PH 15.36; PI 15.36; PJ 15.36; PK 15.36; PL 15.36; PM 15.36; PN 15.36; PO 15.36; PP 15.36; PQ 15.36; PR 15.36; PS 15.36; PT 15.36; PU 15.36; PV 15.36; PW 15.36; PX 15.36; PY 15.36; PZ 15.36; QA 15.36; QB 15.36; QC 15.36; QD 15.36; QE 15.36; QF 15.36; QG 15.36; QH 15.36; QI 15.36; QJ 15.36; QK 15.36; QL 15.36; QM 15.36; QN 15.36; QO 15.36; QP 15.36; QQ 15.36; QR 15.36; QS 15.36; QT 15.36; QU 15.36; QV 15.36; QW 15.36; QX 15.36; QY 15.36; QZ 15.36; RA 15.36; RB 15.36; RC 15.36; RD 15.36; RE 15.36; RF 15.36; RG 15.36; RH 15.36; RI 15

'Evil' preacher jailed sixteen years for drug rape of virgin

Cecil Gilbert, the preacher who drugged and raped virgins, was described as "evil beyond belief" by a judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday and jailed for 16 years.

The verdict came a week after another judge criticized over "lenient" sentences in the Ealing vicarage rape case.

Judge Nina Lowry told Gilbert as he sat clutching the Bible: "You were plausible, you were cunning, you were presentable, and you gained the confidence of susceptible people of all ages."

"They trusted you to help them or their children, but you had no good or charitable or religious purposes, you did not intend to help anyone."

"That any religious man in his late fifties could defile young women almost defies belief."

Gilbert, a twice-married father of seven children, collapsed in the dock with a suspected heart attack. He was taken to St Bartholomew's Hospital, where doctors found he had not had a heart attack. He was brought back to hear the sentence.

Judge Lowry jailed Gilbert, aged 57, from Wood Green High Road, north London, for 16 years for raping a Hindu virgin, aged 19, and nine years for drugging her.

For indecently assaulting an Australian schoolgirl, aged 14, Gilbert was jailed for two years. He was jailed for four years and nine years for twice drugging a nurse, aged 27, so she would not interfere while he had sexual intercourse with the schoolgirl and raped a physiotherapist, aged 27.

For the rape on the physiotherapist, who has since developed a paranoid fear of men and is not able to talk to her own father, Gilbert was jailed for 16 years. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Judge Lowry told Gilbert the Hindu girl and her parents believed him when he said he was a messenger of a Hindu god. The girl needed help and her parents trusted him to provide it, but instead he drugged and raped her as she lay unconscious.

"She was a virgin and this

Judge Nina Lowry (below), aged 61, is the only woman judge at the Central Criminal Court. Her husband, Richard, whom she married in 1963, is also a judge at the court. He took up his post in 1977, a year after his wife.

She was called to the Bar in 1948 and became one of London's first women magistrates. She was previously married to Sir Edward Gardner, the MP and barrister.

Judge Lowry is known as a fairly hard-line judge, with a tendency to hand down severe sentences.

Last year, she was called a "bitch" by a girl sentenced to 75 hours' community service.

But she was described as "very kind" by Dominic Simon, a hairdresser aged 20, who haunted top hospitals pretending to be a physician.

Judge Lowry sent him for psychiatric treatment for three months.

In *Who's Who*, the judge lists her hobbies as theatre and travel. She has a son and a daughter.



was her introduction to sexual intercourse at the hands of a man more than twice her age."

In Australia in 1985 Gilbert put himself forward as a Christian minister with healing powers. A farming family believed in him and asked him to help their daughter. They trusted Gilbert enough to let him take the girl to England.

In a seedy hotel room Gilbert drugged the nurse so she could not interfere when he had sexual intercourse with the schoolgirl. The girls had gone to the hotel believing they were going to a prayer meeting.

A few days later on a similar pretext he took the nurse and the physiotherapist to another hotel. He drugged them both and raped the physiotherapist.

"Both were deeply committed Christians. Like in so many cases in this story they were susceptible and vulnerable to your cunning and deception," the judge said.

Because of the drugs prescribed for his heart condition Gilbert realized what an overpowering effect they could have. He put them in chocolate and coffee drinks which he gave his unsuspecting victims who were possibly, the judge said, emotionally immature.

She told Gilbert, who has convictions for fraud, that he had practised "sexual deceptions aimed at women."

When the last victim had a slight recollection of what had happened and called in police, Gilbert was preparing to leave the country the same day.

In time, the truth of his crimes came to light, revealing conduct "evil beyond belief," the judge said.

It is an affront to human dignity to find you have been drugged and an even greater agony to find you have been raped."

She said she bore in mind Gilbert's age and health but she had to consider the victims and the public.

"I have no confidence at all that your propensity for this evil behaviour will diminish. I think you are a continuing danger to persons who are trusting and unsophisticated, despite your age and health."

As Gilbert hobbled from the dock clutching a Bible wrapped in a handkerchief, he smiled at the press bench and said: "It is all over, gentlemen."

His wife, Val, 27 years his junior, sat in the well of the court muttering "Oh God, Oh God" as the sentences were passed.

Last week Mr Justice Leonard provoked a storm of protest when he jailed two men for three and five years for raping a woman during a raid on a vicarage in west London. There were immediate calls for more women judges to try rape cases.



Mr Mark Thatcher and Miss Diane Burgdorf, who will be married today in London.

Thatcher's Valentine wedding

By David Cross

The Prime Minister's son, Mr Mark Thatcher, will today marry Miss Diane Burgdorf at a quiet private ceremony in Savoy Chapel, London.

Downing Street, which has been taciturn about details of the St Valentine's Day wedding, said yesterday that Mr Thatcher was a private individual and the wedding was being treated in this light.

No member of the Royal Family is expected to attend the ceremony and, apart from a large contingent of security men, guests in the tiny 90-foot long church will be limited to about 150 people.

No more than 300 have been invited to attend a subsequent reception in the adjoining Savoy Hotel.

The Texan bride, who will wear a traditional white wedding dress, will be attended by four adult bridesmaids wearing blue to match the lilywhite outfit which will be worn by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

The Prime Minister's husband, Denis, and Mr Thatcher's twin sister, Carol, will also attend the ceremony. The best man will be Mr Stephen Tipping, a former business partner of Mr Thatcher, who is credited with firing him with his enthusiasm for motor racing.

Mr Thatcher's most devoted husbands are to be found in Scotland and the North-west, where 30 per cent of women said their husbands were more romantic than they were, according to a survey by the *Woman's Realm* magazine. Valentines, pages 8, 9 and 11.

Phone-bug trial man collapses

The Seychelles phone-tapping trial was temporarily halted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday when one of the defendants collapsed.

A doctor was called to examine William Underwood, aged 58, a private detective, after he slumped into a chair, pale and shaking.

Mr Underwood, of Brentford, west London, had been telling the court of conditions in which he was held after his arrest by six anti-terrorist squad officers.

He has denied acting with intent to obstruct police investigating the assassination of the Seychelles political exile, Mr Gerard Hoarau, who was shot outside his north London home in 1985.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr Underwood and two other men were involved in bugging Mr Hoarau's telephone calls, although they had nothing to do with his murder.

Mr Underwood said he was refused access to a solicitor throughout the four days he was held, although "I was almost being accused of murder."

He described how he was put in a windowless cell where there was dried vomit and

dried excrement on the walls. "It was claustrophobic."

He then staggered to a chair, and the judge adjourned the trial until he could be medically examined.

Mr Underwood had told the court he had agreed to bug Mr Hoarau's Edgware home because he believed that the Seychelles dissident was plotting to overthrow the island's government and that details of the case were being passed to the Foreign Office.

Appearing with him is another private detective, David Coghlan, aged 44, of Prestwich, Manchester, and David Richards, aged 43, a British Telecom engineer, of New Moston, Manchester.

Mr Coghlan has denied bribing Mr Richards to plant the bug on a telephone line near Mr Hoarau's home and Mr Richards has denied accepting the bribe.

The trial resumed after an hour. Mr Allan Green, for the prosecution, told the jury that he had been instructed that it was not the Foreign Office's practice to confirm or deny whether what had been alleged had taken place.

The trial continues.

Superprix race to be held again

By Craig Seton

Birmingham is to make another attempt to stage road racing on its city centre streets this summer, in spite of last year's wash-out when the tail end of Hurricane Charlie brought the event to a halt.

It was announced yesterday that Halfords, the automotive accessories company, is to sponsor the event this year and in 1988 at a cost of £750,000.

The sponsorship was hailed as a vote of confidence in the Birmingham Superprix by leaders of the city council, which has invested £1.5 million in it.

The council lost more than £500,000 in last year's event, staged over two days of the August Bank holiday weekend, but said yesterday that it still expected to break even within the five-year timescale.

The superprix will be raced over a 2.5-mile circuit close to the city centre. This year the main feature will be a Formula 3,000 event - one rung below Formula 1 racing - in which supercharged racing cars will complete laps of the circuit at speeds of 180mph.

Portfolio Gold - Solicitor shares in prize again

One of the three winners who shared yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4000 was forewarned about the price of success, having won the competition only two months earlier.

Mr Bruce Dehn, aged 70, a semi-retired solicitor, from Surbiton, Surrey, said that when he won an identical third share of £1,333.33 last December he had declared his intention to splash out on some Bollinger champagne.

"I ended up buying it for all my friends so it proved very expensive and I was unable to put some rather grandiose ideas I had into practice."

"My wife, Jean, tells me that she wants a good holiday, and that she deserves it."

Mr Christopher Kilney, aged 54, a civil engineer, of Copthorne, West Sussex, said he was extremely pleased to have won. "That's great. It will go towards some home improvements or a holiday, or I might buy my 12-year-old daughter, Christy, a viola because she's been going so well with her music," he said.

The third winner of yesterday's Portfolio Gold competition was Major G Bovey, of Bovey Tracey in Devon.

Readers who wish to play Portfolio Gold can obtain a card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold
The Times
PO Box 40
Blackburn
BB1 6AJ.



Mr Bruce Dehn: knows the price of success

PC death trial

The PC Blake murder trial at the Central Criminal Court has been adjourned until Monday after yesterday morning was spent in legal argument in the absence of the jury.

'Danger to women' gets 14 years

A rapist was jailed for fourteen and a half years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after a judge told him he did not propose "to be influenced by the wave of emotive public opinion currently being expressed with regard to rape cases."

Judge Lyberty, QC, said he had thought of imposing a life sentence on Shane Bojang, aged 25, because he repre-

sented "a grave danger to women."

Bojang, of West Gardens, Stepney, east London, a decorator, admitted raping a girl aged 17 and causing her grievous bodily harm.

He was jailed for 14 years for the rape, with six years concurrent for the assault. He was given a further six months for breach of a suspended sentence for burglary.

Bojang had a number of

convictions for dishonesty, and three for indecent assaults on girls. The judge described him as "an inhuman, vicious and violent rapist."

Mr Robert Watson, for Bojang, said he had been drinking heavily and smoking cannabis. He had been a drug addict since the age of 12, and had become obsessed with pornographic magazines and stole women's underwear from washing lines.

Catholic challenge on Aids

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

Roman Catholics in Scotland yesterday received an Aids leaflet which could undermine the Government's own safe-sex campaign.

The new leaflet, *Aids the Double Challenge*, delivered to Scotland's 850,000 Catholics, gives a warning that the church cannot modify its stand on contraception.

It also says that all sexual intercourse outside marriage and all homosexual acts are against the law of Christ. The leaflet from the Catholic Bishops Conference of Scotland, says the Church has a responsibility to reaffirm clearly her teaching on sexual morality in the light of the Aids crisis.

"The Church cannot support measures which even tacitly accept extra-marital sexual activity, nor can she modify her teaching on contraception whatever the circumstances."

The leaflet, which has the support of the Church of Scotland, does favour the setting up of local support groups and hospices.

A spokesman for the Department of Health and Social Security said that the DHSS could not be seen to be involved in any religious education.

Dispute four bound over

Four men charged with offences connected with the Wapping dispute were each bound over in the sum of £50 by Thames magistrates yesterday.

John Childs, printer, of Carleton Villas, Holloway, was accused of using threatening language. Alan Jennings, of Wager Street, unemployed, of Slough, was charged with obstructing a police officer. Richard Lloyd, unemployed, of Slough, was charged with obstructing a police officer. The prosecution offered no evidence.

Fuel costs to push up holiday prices

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Holidaymakers face surcharges of up to £10 on their package tours this summer because of the spiralling cost of fuel.

Many leading tour operators have sent out bills to travel agents demanding between £2.50 and £7 per person on top of the overall price of the package depending on the length of the flight. The operators say that the eventual surcharge could be higher.

The reason is the increase in the cost of crude oil. Airlines have been doubly affected because the cold winter throughout Europe has led to an unprecedented demand for fuel oil, which comes from the same part of the barrel as aviation fuel.

That additional demand led automatically to an increase in the asking price.

Horizon holidays, which expects to fly about 750,000 holidaymakers this summer, said last night: "We are simply passing on the additional cost of fuel which is charged to us as when we fly. We can accommodate any price rise in hotels simply by paying for the

rooms in advance. But we cannot do that with fuel."

"The surcharges now being billed will affect our summer holidays which start in April."

Thomsons, the market leader, which has sold 1.5 million holidays out of a total of three million available this summer, says that the average increase is between £3 and £4 per person.

"We send out the final invoices 10 weeks before travel," a spokesman said. "That is when we calculate the fuel price and unfortunately we are now having to levy a surcharge for holidays beginning at the end of April."

Scheduled airlines have so far been able to absorb the increase in fuel prices because they fell so low last summer. Aviation fuel is paid for in dollars and fell to a low of about 40 cents per gallon in August. Recent increases have pushed that up to about 52 cents.

Airlines traditionally negotiate their new fuel contracts from April 1 and are preparing for the next price battle with the oil companies.

Britain's test-tube triplets

Triplets born in a London hospital yesterday are the first babies born in Britain using a new test-tube fertilization technique and are only the second such triplets in the world.

Mr Oholamreza Behroozinia, aged 34, and his wife, Ferasthe, aged 28, from Iran, sold all their possessions to pay for the £1,350 operation at the Humana Hospital in London.

They had been trying unsuccessfully for six years to have a family but only discovered there was a chance when they visited friends in London who told them of the T-set method of fertilizing eggs, being pioneered in Britain by Professor Ian Craft.

The technique involved surgeons removing eggs from Mrs Behroozinia and mixing them with sperm from her husband. Then, instead of being placed in an incubator, they were inserted directly in the mother's fallopian tube.

Professor Craft said multiple births were not a feature of the T-set technique although several sets of twins have been born.

Branson 'plea over Boy George'

The head of Virgin Records, Richard Branson, pleaded with police not to arrest Boy George until he had completed treatment for his heroin addiction. It was claimed at Knightsbridge Crown Court yesterday.

Police wanted to interview the pop star about two drugs dealers who are said to have supplied him with heroin.

Mr Anthony Berry, who is defending Steven Luben, one of the alleged dealers, claimed that a "truce" was called because the singer was receiving treatment.

Det Sergeant David Leader, the officer in charge of the operation, replied: "We were aware he was undergoing treatment and to an extent we waited for that to be completed. We wished to interview Boy George about the

same time the two dealers were arrested."

Mr Berry said: "At about that stage Richard Branson intervened to ask police, in effect, to stay their hand until he had been treated a little more."

Mr Leader replied: "Various requests were made from various people to the effect that Boy George was receiving treatment and requested that we delay interviewing him until the end of the treatment or he was fit to be interviewed."

He denied that the police were under pressure to arrest the star quickly. "We took action not from pressure from the press but from whether we felt he was fit."

Steven Luben, aged 35, and Diane Feiner, aged 34, of Westbourne Terrace, deny conspiracy to supply heroin.

Miss Feiner, also denies conspiracy to supply cocaine.

The court was told that at first Boy George denied any involvement with Luben. Mr Leader denied that the singer had been told he could not leave until making a statement or that he was offered any bargain.

Mr Berry suggested that police offered to charge Boy George with the less serious offence of possession rather than supplying heroin.

Mr Leader replied: "That's completely untrue. There was no bargain, agreement or arrangement at all." He also denied that Boy George was offered help to get foreign work visas.

The singer was later fined £250 after pleading guilty to possessing an unspecified amount of heroin.

The hearing continues.

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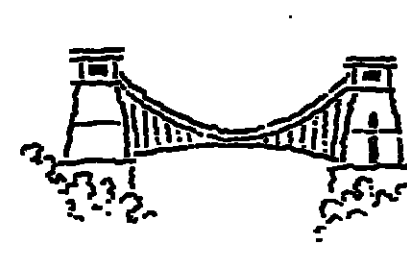
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Secrecy over marks may be ended by Cambridge

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Cambridge University students may soon be entitled to know the marks they obtained in each final-year paper.

The proposal, a radical break with tradition, has been put by the university's general board of faculties and will be considered in the next few weeks. If accepted, the new rule will be introduced next summer.

Consideration of the move has been forced on the university by the Data Protection Act, which gives everybody the right to see any information on them stored in a computer.

Many faculties, such as natural sciences and economics, use computers extensively for calculating and recording marks.

Although other faculties, such as history, do not use computers, the general board has proposed that all final-year students should be given their marks as a matter of educational policy, and not just because of the requirements of the Act.

Until now, the university has prohibited the release of marks, although candidates do receive quite detailed information from their tutors about how they have done in individual papers.

It will enable a candidate who achieves an upper second, for example, to know where it falls in a range between 60 and 69 per cent, while a third-class degree will be identified at a point between 40 and 49 per cent.

Dr George Reid, the chair-

man of the board of examinations, said yesterday that opinion in the university was split but he believed students had a right to know their results.

University College, Cardiff, faced with a severe financial crisis and an unprecedented threat from the Department of Education and Science to cut off its funds, has agreed to appoint a team of financial managers and accountants.

Dr Alfred Moritz, the vice-principal, said yesterday that the college had received a letter from Sir David Hancock, permanent secretary at the department, threatening to withhold the next instalment of its grant if the college did not act quickly to bring its spending under control.

Its financial crisis was identified more than three years ago when a deficit of £2.5 million was forecast. Little was done and the college now has accumulated debts of about £4.5 million.

A recent internal report said that the college's arts faculty was overstuffed and that over-spending on academic salaries in the science faculty required "radical correcting action".

The Department of Education said yesterday that as permanent secretary, Sir David Hancock is the accounting officer responsible to Parliament "for the prudent and economic administration of public funds".

An official said the actions required of Cardiff could be taken quickly and that there need be no loss of grant.



Katharina Spencer, aged 10, from Basingstoke, receiving a BBC Saturday Superstore winner's badge from Mrs Thatcher yesterday for her answer to, "What would you do if you were Prime Minister?" (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Caning ban for schools in Ulster

The Northern Ireland Office has decided that corporal punishment should be abolished in all grant-aided schools in the province from next September.

Dr Brian Mawhinney, junior Northern Ireland minister, is shortly to table an Order in Council that will bring the province into line with other parts of the United Kingdom where corporal punishment is being abolished.

under the 1986 Education Act. The minister rejected earlier proposals that parents with a philosophical objection to corporal punishment should be able to exempt their children from caning, and thus for the province to comply with the 1982 ruling by the European Court of Human Rights.

After talks with interested parties, including the now abolished Stormont Assembly, however, the conclusion was reached that a system of exemption would be unworkable, according to a spokesman for Ulster's Department of Education yesterday.

The spokesman said there were very few schools in Northern Ireland not in receipt of any government grants and that, in practice, the use of corporal punishment had greatly declined throughout the province in recent years.

Families look after piano contestants

Free accommodation for Irish families is assured for participants in an international piano competition in Dublin next year.

Organizers of the contest, sponsored by the GPA Group, a Shannon-based aircraft leasing company, said yesterday they expected more than 100 entrants.

February 13 1987 PARLIAMENT

Forces personnel to get right to sue for injury

The Government supported in the Commons the right of service personnel to seek redress for death and injury caused by fellow personnel while on duty, but Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said that it did not accept that this should be applied retrospectively.

The Crown Proceedings (Armed Forces) Bill was given an unopposed second reading. Mr William Chicheley (Devonshire, C) said when he moved second reading that the Bill sought to rectify increasingly glaring injustices. It was discrimination which had given rise to much bitterness.

The general climate of public opinion in human and civil rights had changed considerably since the original legislation was enacted. There was now much less willingness to accept that the special circumstances of life in the armed forces justified depriving men and women of the services of rights enjoyed by their fellow citizens, particularly in peace time.

The awards made by the courts to civilians who were the victims of negligence far outstripped, sometimes by a factor of 10 or more, compensation available to a serviceman.

The Bill would repeal Section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947, while retaining power to reactivate it in the event of actual or impending hostilities or at a time of great national emergency. It would not be retrospective.

He had been appalled to discover that £9.3 million, nearly half the total financial provision of £19,750,000 required to operate his Bill, was to go on legal fees and administration.

He had been outraged to discover that the Treasury Solicitor's department proposed to take on 52 extra staff costing £32,500 annually and that legal and other costs would come to another £6.6 million.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that someone, somewhere is trying something on. I am not prepared to have my Bill used as a vehicle for what might be called 'generating jobs for the boys'.

Rather than have this whole raft of expensive legal advisers and to prepare for more and more vexatious and costly litigation, let the compensation offered by the MoD be so self-evidently fair that the number of cases going to court will be minimal and the overwhelming majority of the resources set aside for the Bill can then be applied to the purpose which Parliament intends, to compensate the injured and bereaved, rather than lining the pockets of an array of expensive, gilded, legal parasites.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, Lab) said that the case for retrospective was powerful and he deplored any quibbling about costs. The attitude of the defence authorities to protecting men at the atomic tests in Australia and the South Pacific in the Fifties and Sixties had been as though they were at a Guy Fawkes bonfire party. He did not think the attitude was casual because a top-secret document sent from the Defence Research Policy Committee to the chiefs of staff in 1953 had been worded so as to mean that soldiers must be guinea pigs, without protection, where the effects of explosions were involved. Men had suffered grotesque, horrible deaths and severe injuries. The lack of information

DEFENCE

Mr John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDP) said that those MPs who represented traditionally service constituencies took the view that servicemen made enough sacrifices.

The Government argued that no serviceman had suffered. If that was its case, why was it so reluctant to argue it in the courts?

Mr Lewis Stevens (Nuneaton, C) said that if the Bill did not include retrospective, "it is going to come back to us time and time again."

Mr Kevin McNamara, an Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, supporting the Bill, said that they were trying to correct the denial of natural justice to servicemen. This was a belated recognition.

When would the National Radiological Protection Board study, into the effect on servicemen at nuclear tests, be completed?

Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham, C) said that this was a moral issue. It was a matter of justice that servicemen should not be placed at a disadvantage compared to civilians.

Mr Julian Critchley (Aldershot, C) said that as MP for the home of the British Army he welcomed the Bill. Reform was long overdue.

Mr Barry Porter (Wirral, South, C) was concerned that there might be changes in military training which would reduce its value. They did not want commanders looking over their shoulders worried about whether writs would be flying, rather than bullets.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, welcoming the Bill on behalf of the Government, said that in 1983 the Government had set up an inter-departmental working group to review the operation and effects of Section 10.

The review had shown that the damages the courts awarded in some personal injury cases exceeded considerably the benefits an injured serviceman would receive.

"We have taken the view, therefore, that the repeal of Section 10 is the only really satisfactory way to remove this disadvantage from members of the armed forces."

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The Ministry of Defence would stand behind any serviceman who was sued for action in the execution of his duty. This would ensure that there was no adverse effect on morale or discipline or on the standard of training. However, disciplinary action could be taken against a serviceman alleged to have caused injury.

It would wrong to impose retrospective legal liability for a past case under a different legal regime.

With reference to suggestions that there should be *ex gratia* payments in earlier cases, there was no logical cut-off point in time between deserving cases and others.

Claims against the Ministry of Defence in regard to nuclear tests would remain invalid because they related to incidents before the Government's announcement of its intention to repeal Section 10.

It was hoped that the National Radiological Protection Board study would be published later this year. In the light of it, the Government would review its decision.

The forecast maximum cost of damages arising out of the Bill was £10.4 million per annum. The Government would study again the estimates of the number of staff to be employed.

Protests as housing Bill fails

Labour protests greeted the failure of a Bill to strengthen the safety provision for houses in multiple occupation.

The Housing (Houses in Multiple Occupation) Bill was adjourned but stands little chance of progress.

Moving the second reading of his Bill, Mr Donald Anderson (Swansea East, Lab) said that housing and safety conditions for two million people were a national scandal. People lived in properties that were a risk to their lives.

His Bill would give tenants' bed-sits, hostels and bed-and-breakfast accommodation the right to decent, safe homes. There would be a firm duty on landlords to provide fire safety, repairs and facilities.

Mr John Fraser, an Opposition spokesman on housing, said that there was support for the Bill on all sides. Mr Richard Tracey, Under Secretary of State, Department of Environment, said that standards were still lower than they should be and there were widespread needs for repair and better management.

Much of what the Bill proposed already existed in current legislation albeit in discretionary forms. The approach should be to concentrate effort on encouraging the wider application and knowledge of the existing powers.

Policing at Wapping

No weapons other than normal truncheons were carried by the police during the riot outside the News International plant in Wapping, east London, on the night of January 24, Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in a Commons written reply.

Some officers on foot drew and used their truncheons, he said, but no mounted officers did so.

Three video cameras were used that night to assist the policing of the demonstration outside the plant.

The latest estimated cost of the first stage of the construction of the British Library in central London is £218 million at 1986 prices. Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, said in a Commons written reply. No decision has been taken on subsequent stages, he said.

Investigations are under way into recent press allegations about drug abuse and trafficking on board Royal Navy ships. Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said in a Commons written reply.

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Who follows Sarah Brightman?
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Find out why in The Sunday Times tomorrow.

OF HUMAN BONDAGE

Joanna Lumley on the new Bond girls

THE WAGES OF CYN

Anna Raeburn agonises over the Cynthia Paine trial

CROSLAND ON BROPHY

The witty insights of tragic novelist Brigid Brophy

Gunman who died after chase may be linked to robberies

By Mark Ellis

Police are investigating links between a man who died from gunshot wounds minutes after shooting at two women police constables and a spate of unsolved armed robberies in the North-east attributed to a man dubbed "the mechanic".

The dead man was named yesterday as David Grice, aged 39, a garage owner of Tholthorpe, Easingwold, near York.

He collapsed and died on Thursday night as he sat handcuffed to two policemen in the charge office at Stocker Road police station, Cleveland, after a chase in which two policewomen "miraculously" escaped injury when a sawn-off shotgun was fired through the windscreen of their patrol car.

It was not known yesterday whether Mr Grice, a divorcee, had shot himself deliberately.

A post-mortem examination showed that death was caused by a massive loss of blood from internal injuries as a result of a wound from a shotgun.

The chase, in which police were unarmed, began when a constable saw a Ford Escort car, parked close to a super-

market in Norton, near Stockton, as the day's takings were about to be collected. The driver pulled away after seeing the police car.

Mr Grice drove into a cul-de-sac and as he ran off brandished a sawn-off shotgun at the detectives and other officers in the hunt.

He ran towards a housing estate and when a panda car stopped near him he threatened Police Constable Josephine Lawton, aged 26, and Police Constable Heather Potts-Weir, aged 23, with a shotgun. As he ordered them to get out he discharged the gun through the windscreen.

After driving the panda car towards a policeman who tried to stop him, the car crashed into a wall and a second shot was heard. Mr Grice was overpowered, and found to be carrying a loaded FM Browning .32 pistol and a supply of ammunition, as well as a sawn-off shotgun.

At the police station he said he had broken his ribs, but police said there was no indication he had been shot until he went pale and collapsed.

Mr Jack Ord, Deputy Chief Constable of Cleveland, said:

"He was talking, quite conscious and there was no indication his life was going to expire. There was little evidence of loss of blood at the time."

A Home Office ballistics expert, Dr Graham Renshaw, is examining the weapons and is expected to report his findings during the weekend.

An investigation into the circumstances of the death was being carried out yesterday by Det Chief Supt David Shaw, of the Northumbria force.

Yesterday Mr Ord praised the officers involved in the hunt for their bravery and professionalism and said he was satisfied no police officers were involved in the death.

At least six armed raids with striking similarities, carried out in the region since 1984, have been linked to "the mechanic", a nickname earned because of his use of tuned-up stolen cars for quick getaways.

Last November, BBC Television's *Crimewatch* programme appealed for help from the public in solving the raids, mainly on supermarkets, in which substantial sums of money were taken.

Praise the Lord and pass the sandwich



Choristers at St Michael and All Angels Church in Chiswick, west London, taking refreshment yesterday during an attempt to sing the New English Hymnal without a break.

Deadline is set for Euro tunnel Bill

The House of Lords is to try to complete all stages of the Channel Tunnel Bill before the summer recess or the whole £4.7 billion project will be under threat (Sheila Gunn writes).

The sponsored charity event has been organized by the church organist, Mr Oliver West (second from left), and involves the singing of 542 hymns in a performance expected to last about 32 hours. (Photograph: Stephen Markeson)

there will be a delay in getting the essential third tranche of equity of £750 million. It could also be in danger from an early general election.

Since the recent troubles began at Eurotunnel, ministers have been emphasizing that the project is financed by the private sector. But its go-ahead will have great prestige value for Mrs Thatcher. If it

fails the Government will face criticism. Advertisements in yesterday's newspapers informed petitioners they had only until next Wednesday to make their submissions to the Lords select committee. The tight deadline was defended by government managers in the Lords who pointed out that the Bill had

already been before Parliament for many months. Fewer petitions are expected in the Lords than the 5,000 put in to the Commons, where opponents of the Bill complained bitterly that they were "gagged". But it is believed some opponents have been saving their petitions because they expect a fairer hearing from peers.

Coal fraud cash to be recovered

British Coal is to take legal action to recover tens of thousands of pounds gained by businessmen from fraudulent claims over subsidence damage in the north Nottinghamshire coalfield.

The announcement of civil proceedings follows the sentencing of four businessmen and four British Coal inspectors for their part in a swindle involving contracts worth more than £4 million.

British Coal pays up to £20 million a year in Nottinghamshire to the owners of properties damaged by mine workings. The subsidence department is now to use outside specialists to ensure that corruption does not occur.

The four inspectors were jailed at Nottingham Crown Court for periods of up to four years. They have all been dismissed. The four businessmen received jail sentences, suspended sentences or were fined. All eight admitted their part in the swindle.

Mr George Brown, of British Coal's audit branch, who led the investigation into the north Nottinghamshire swindle said yesterday: "There is a strong possibility of more proceedings."

The four subsidence inspectors received a total of £74,000 in bribes, including diamond rings. The prosecution said that although work was claimed for and money was paid, it was either not done or claims were grossly inflated.

Mr Frank Fletcher, aged 65, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, one of the businessmen sentenced on Thursday, received a nine-month jail sentence, suspended for two years, and was not jailed for two years as stated in our report yesterday.

Man on the run is cleared

A man who jumped bail on the first day of his trial was cleared in his absence yesterday on a charge of receiving more than £100,000 of stolen travellers' cheques.

Terence Ginley, aged 32, of Belfast, failed to return after lunch on the first day of his trial on Tuesday at Dublin's Special Criminal Court and the trial continued without him. But yesterday the court cleared him, ruling there was not enough evidence to convict.

But Ginley still faces a possible jail sentence. On Tuesday the court issued a warrant for his arrest and it still stands. He could face 12 months in jail or a fine of £1,000 for not turning up.

Dismissal for bellringers

The Rev Jeremy Hummerstone, vicar of St Michael and All Angels in Great Torrington, north Devon, has dismissed his eight bellringers because they do not attend his church. The ringers said choking incense put them off. But the vicar has replied: "I know what their usual cure for dry throats is. I cannot believe the smoke affects them."

Warning on paracetamol

A warning about the deadly combination of alcohol and paracetamol was given yesterday at an inquest.

Mr Michael Charman, the Leicester coroner, said the paracetamol taken to ease pain by Christopher Robinson, aged 26, of Leicester, would not on its own, have been fatal.

Housing

Political meddling criticized by Duke

Housing will remain in a muddled, unhappy state until ideologists stop using it as a political football and planners learn from past mistakes, the Duke of Edinburgh said yesterday.

Paramount was the need to provide comfortable homes which people could afford. That could be done only if politicians agreed to treat housing as a neutral matter and if local authorities paid properly trained professionals to design and build estates.

The Duke spoke of concern over the homeless and inadequately housed, when as Chancellor of Salford University he inaugurated the Salford Centre for Housing Studies.

The co-director of the centre is Professor Valerie Karm, who was a member of the team investigating British housing under the chairmanship of the Duke in 1985. The report criticized the shortage of homes, lack of choice and woeful maintenance and repair.

The Duke described the new centre as a brilliant idea whereby training in house construction and maintenance was combined with instruction on housing finance and management.

But unless previous mistakes were recognized and realistic solutions to housing needs found the centre would be a waste of time.

Standing in the university's lecture theatre in the shadow of inner-city decay, with 1960s homes abandoned, vandalized

and boarded up, the Duke spoke with feeling about the way housing needs were being neglected.

Human survival, he pointed out, depended upon attaining enough to eat and somewhere to live, yet although the food industry was supported by a huge infrastructure, housing was "less than adequately served."

"I think most people, certainly all the members of the inquiry, recognize that we have got into a muddle over housing in this country. There is no need, and it would not help, to blame anybody for the present unhappy state of affairs," he continued.

"There is no disgrace in facing the facts and in making a new effort to get things right — or at least to get them improved. But the new effort must be based on a willingness to learn from past mistakes and a determination to be realistic and objective about the solutions to the problems of housing."

The Duke added: "None of our ideas will stand a chance of success if they clash with political ideology. I have to say that I feel that it is a pity that housing has become such a political football."

Once political wrangling ended, the Duke suggested, local authorities should move to a more strategic role and instead of relying upon inadequately skilled staff to plan and build homes should hand the problem over to properly trained professionals.

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IT'S EASY GOING
TOWNSEND THORESEN

Athletes withdraw from Pretoria games after black schoolboy banned

From Michael Horasby, Johannesburg

A big political row has blown up here over the exclusion of a black Natal schoolboy from an annual inter-schools athletics meeting at a Pretoria high school today.

At least 100 of the 340 athletes from Natal schools who were due to take part in the games at the Menlo Park Hoerskool, a segregated state school for Afrikaans-speaking whites in Pretoria, were reported yesterday to have withdrawn in protest.

The sponsors of the event for the past 15 years, the Sports Foundation of Southern Africa, which was set up 30 years ago by local and foreign companies to promote racially-integrated sport, also announced that it was withdrawing its support.

The Minister of Home Affairs and leader of the ruling National Party in Natal, Mr Stoffel Botha, said he sincerely regretted the action taken by the Menlo Park school, and that the Government was not opposed to racially-mixed school sport events.

The white Department of Education and Culture maintained, however, that nothing could be done because individual schools were free to decide their own policy on racially-mixed sport.

hard work that our sport administrators and sportsmen

have done to normalize sport and keep a toehold in international sport has been jeopardized," Mr Mike Tarr, an opposition Progressive Federal Party spokesman, said.

At the centre of the storm is Nkululeko "Squeegie" Skweyiya, a shy 17-year-old in his final year at Kearsney College, a private school at Botha's Hill near Durban, who got his nickname because his white

Two white actors in the anti-war play, *Somewhere on the Border*, suffered facial injuries after being followed from a theatre and attacked, the Performing Arts Council of the Transvaal said (Reuters reports from Johannesburg).

schoolfellows could not pronounce his real name.

A talented rugby player as well as an athlete, "Squeegie" had been due to run in the 100 metres and 400 metres sprint relays as a member of the Durban and District team, in which 34 schools were represented. His headmaster, Mr Colin Silcock, was told that he could not take part because of his race.

"I hated having to give him the news," Mr Silcock said yesterday. "But he is a philosophical chap and took it on

the chin. He says this sort of thing has happened before in other matters."

"Squeegie" is one of 26 blacks among the 516 boys at Kearsney College, which, like other private schools, is allowed to accept pupils of all races. His father is a well-known Durban advocate, a member of the small black professional middle-class who can afford to buy their children an apartment-free education.

The principal of the Menlo Park Hoerskool, Mr C. van der Merwe, refused to talk to the press yesterday. A member of the staff who talked to *The Times* on condition that he was not identified said it was the first time that any team applying to take part in the competition had included a black.

He said the athletics meeting would go ahead in spite of the Natal withdrawals, adding that about 800 pupils from all over the country had originally been due to take part.

The decision to bar "Squeegie" from competing was taken by the school's management board, on which parents and teaching staff are represented. Some parents were yesterday quoted as being furious at the decision, however, and as saying that the board had been "hijacked" by "a bunch of right-wingers".

The other face of the Gorbachov revolution



Soviet police in plain clothes arresting Mr Boris Begun, centre, son of the imprisoned Jewish activist, Isosif Begun, during a demonstration in Moscow.

Hardliners dig in their heels against pressure for reform

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

On a night train rattling through Poland towards Czechoslovakia last week, there was a noisy party in the next compartment to ours returning from winter holidays were having a singalong, and the words drifted into the corridor loud and clear - "We shall overcome, we shall not be moved."

Similar refrains, more sober but less tuneful, could be heard in the Communist Party headquarters of Prague, East Berlin and Bucharest. The hardliners in these capitals,

The party leadership - barely changed since it was installed by Mr Leonid Brezhnev and several divisions of tanks in 1968 - would not forget the lessons of the past, he declared. That is, market-style economic reforms or a shake-up in the way the Communists make decisions could not be the genie of 1968: reform means upheaval. "Some people would like to take advantage of changes in the Soviet Union and disguise their actual anti-socialist intent."

● Czechoslovakia is not going to jump on any bandwagon ●

under pressure to reform and follow the Gorbachov lead, are digging in their heels and refusing to budge.

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, was sent by the Kremlin to explain Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's important plans for party reform to the Czechoslovak and East Germans.

Mr Shevardnadze was a good choice as he was not only because of his foreign ministry portfolio, but also because of his record in trying to clean up the corrupt party machine in Soviet Georgia.

But there was no senior East German Politburo figure to greet Mr Shevardnadze at Schönefeld airport, and in Prague the country's ideological chief, Mr Vasil Bilak, was absent from both the welcoming and the farewell ceremonies.

The press in both countries produced filtered versions of Mr Gorbachov's speech to the bi-national plenary session of the Central Committee, and in Romania the filtering was so thorough that many readers wondered why the Kremlin leader had spoken at all, since there appeared to be no content.

Mr Bilak reported back to his party's ideological commission last week, and in so doing defended the Prague leadership of Mr Gustav Husak against the new winds from Moscow. More at home in attacking the CIA, the Vatican, Rauno and AIDS, Mr Bilak said Czechoslovakia was not going to jump on any bandwagon.

Certainly, dissidents throughout the Soviet bloc are showing some interest, although in Poland that interest is tinged with scepticism, in Mr Gorbachov's ideas. And certainly Mr Gorbachov's proposals - for secret party polling, for multiple candidature, for more candour about party intrusiveness and legal tools for those wronged by the party - are regarded with profound distrust by the old guard party elites in all but Poland and Hungary.

Poland and Hungary believe with some justice that they influenced the current changes in the Soviet Union. Warsaw's amnesty for political prisoners, its creation of an Ombudsman for civil rights, its more lively propaganda, the establishment of a think tank for non-Communist intellectuals, the election of party officials and limits on their tenure: these are all ideas being kicked around now in Moscow.

Hungary, with its successful economic reform, feels advanced age, in spite of the advance of Mr Janos Kadar, its leader, than it has done for years. Its reforms will not be rolled back because of real or imagined pressure from the east.

It is the Prague leadership which is most in danger. The East Germans and Bulgarians have ageing leaders - like Mr Hans Egon Kreutz, Mr Erich Honecker of East Germany and Mr Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria are in their seventies - but their economies are being re-tooled without much fuss.

The party machines are unwieldy and unresponsive, but both have been bringing up younger men and creating a good basis for future Communist renewal. Even so, East Germany would have preferred not to be put under pressure.

● Hungary will not have its changes rolled back ●

on change in the Warsaw Pact, or will he allow the leaders to draw their own conclusions and make orderly exits? That is unclear. Informed sources say that Mr Shevardnadze was more delicate than his predecessor, Mr Andrei Gromyko, in similar circumstances. There is, after all, a doctrine of "unity in differentiation" which gives each East European country a measure of manoeuvre.

Some leaders are anyway due to resign for reasons of health or age: only the Husak line-up needs to be shored. The others will probably jump of their own accord, but not before a few more grumbles and some more months of trench warfare between the comrades.

● Moscow's big media event

Jet set flies in to talk about peace

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

One of the world's most bizarre peace conferences, involving a cast of more than 900 international personalities ranging from Yoko Ono, the widow of John Lennon, to the former Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Pierre Trudeau, is due to open in Moscow today, with the type of orchestrated publicity build-up normally associated with a show business event.

The gathering, which is understood to have been the personal brainchild of the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, is known grandiosely as "The International Forum for a Non-Nuclear World and the Survival of Mankind". Mr Gorbachov will address the delegates next Monday in a Kremlin speech promised to contain important new initiatives on arms control.

All those invited, from more than 80 countries, are receiving free flights and hotel rooms from the Soviet Government, which Western diplomats here are convinced will use the occasion to try to win broad international backing for the Kremlin's disarmament policies, especially its call for an immediate end to all nuclear tests.

Altogether, the unprecedented forum will consist of seven different "round tables", at which the international personalities - those who had already arrived yesterday included the author Graham Greene and the veteran film star Gregory Peck - will discuss various peace-related themes with about 350 Soviet counterparts.

In addition to those already here, the list of acceptances includes leading international physicians, scientists, businessmen and religious figures, was dogged with controversy even before it opened. Senior Western diplomats claimed that a number of the participants appeared to have failed fully to understand its objectives.

"I have talked to several Americans who have come here and found, particularly among the businessmen, that I think that they came here under false pretences," said Mr Arthur Hartman, the outgoing US Ambassador. "That is, they were told it was a meeting to discuss business, and I think it is probably more peace and arms control and the Soviet position."

Among Soviet participants, most interest surrounds the dissident physicist, Dr Andrei Sakharov, who was released two months ago from indefinite internal exile in Gorky, and who surprised a number of his supporters by agreeing to join the round table discussing scientific issues.

On the eve of the conference, there was a widely-shared view among Western observers here that it was primarily a skillfully organized media event, designed to garner world backing for Mr Gorbachov's policies both at home and abroad.

Letter from Cairo

Hi-tech takes on pyramids puzzle

The Ancient Egyptians built all their great pyramids in a monumental building spree lasting only about 200 years. In the process they created two things which continue to this day to serve their modern descendants.

The first is one of the world's most enduring tourist attractions. The second is an organizational form of government likely to be perpetuated by this week's referendum on dissolving the People's Assembly, and by the subsequent elections for a new Parliament.

Nothing can detract from the massive splendour of Giza's three main pyramids. The camel-owners refuse to believe anyone would turn down "a good price" to ride their threadbare mounts. The horses leave pungent reminders everywhere. Children scramble noisily around the lower tiers, kicking balls and throwing orange peel and chewed sugar cane.

But the sheer bulk of the pyramids dwarfs everything. The smallest of the three has only a tenth of the volume of its two huge neighbours, yet in AD 1215 the Caliph of Cairo gave up trying to have it pulled down after eight months' hard work had made only a slight impression on it.

Herodotus wrote that this pyramid was supposed to have been built by a particularly successful prostitute from Thrace called Rhodopis, who charged her admirers one building stone each for her services.

In today's more scientific age it is thought unlikely that she really had the 200,000 slaves needed to build the monument. Contemporary scientists are nevertheless continuing to discover new secrets in the tombs.

The past couple of weeks have seen teams of Japanese, Argentinian and French Egyptologists probing the mysteries of the Great Pyramid.

The Japanese have been using amazing hi-tech equipment, including an electromagnetic scanning device that has apparently confirmed there are sand-filled cavities behind the narrow, four-foot high corridor which leads to the Queen's Chamber.

● Ian Murray

Bush makes bid to create own image

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr George Bush, the Vice President, is preparing a range of policy speeches designed to demonstrate his political independence after six years of loyalty to President Reagan.

His determination to establish a personal political platform as he seeks the Republican presidential nomination seems certain to cause



Mr Bush: distancing himself from Iran arms deal.

Mr Bush, whose remarks were made on a 24-hour campaign tour through Michigan and Illinois, acknowledged that his role in the Iran business had damaged his popular support.

Meanwhile, the Tower Commission, appointed by President Reagan to investigate the National Security Council, is preparing "a highly critical report" of how the President and his senior advisers devised and executed the policies that led to the Iran-Contra affair, according to *The Washington Post* yesterday.

think most people in the Administration would."

Observers are speculating how far Mr Bush will go in separating himself from the Iran arms deal. He tried to give the impression that he was remote from the decision-making process - a position completely at odds with his previous assertions that he was at one with the President.

He said he had voiced "certain reservations" about how the affair was developing. He had communicated those doubts to high officials involved in carrying out the policy. But he did not say what those doubts were, or whether he conveyed them directly to President Reagan, and he faces a difficult balancing act in moving away from the Iran episode while not being accused of deserting Mr Reagan at a time of political crisis.

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Botswana rail link disrupted

From Michael Horasby, Johannesburg

Botswana said yesterday that the rail service between it and South Africa had been cut by the authorities in Bophuthatswana, one of South Africa's four independent tribal homelands.

The Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, said Bophuthatswana had served notice that as from last Thursday night no more trains bound for South African ports would be allowed to pass through its territory.

This was likely to "disrupt train traffic for a considerable period of time", the ministry said.

Bophuthatswana, which straddles the rail line linking Cape Town with black-ruled countries to the north of South Africa, recently announced that in future it would require visas from Zimbabwean and Botswana train crews.



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WORLD SUMMARY

\$7m award after Klan lynching

Washington — The mother of Michael Donald, a black teenager murdered by two Ku Klux Klansmen, has been awarded \$7 million (£4.5m) in damages, a verdict her lawyer said may put the nation's largest Klan group out of business (Mehsin Ali writes).

An all-white Alabama jury made the award this week against the United Klans of America Inc. and six past or present members, including the two sent to prison for the 1981 killing. No decision has been made on whether to appeal. Mr John Mays, the Klan's attorney, said.

Mr Alex Howard, the US district judge who presided over the trial in Mobile, will hold a hearing within 90 days to determine the assets of the United Klans, which has about 2,500 members and operates in the south-east.

Mr Donald, aged 19, was beaten and strangled and his body was left hanging from a tree. State Senator Michael Figueres, attorney for the Donald family, called the verdict a "landmark ruling that would make sure the Donald death was the last Klan lynching".

Visa row defused

The British High Commissioner in Lagos returned to his post yesterday and reached a successful compromise with Nigerian officials over a dispute which erupted on Thursday over the closure of a new visa office in the city (Nicholas Beeston writes).

Sir Martin Evans cut short his leave for talks with senior Nigerian officials to defuse the row between the countries. The dispute erupted when Lagos ordered the Foreign Office to close its £1 million visa office, opened two weeks ago. Nigeria claimed it had caused traffic chaos in a busy street near the President's office.

US back in space

Washington — The successful launch this week of a Titan 3B rocket carrying a secret military satellite restores the US ability to send heavy satellites into space (Mehsin Ali writes).

It was the first launch since a series of accidents grounded the Titan fleet last year. The satellite, which may be designed to monitor Soviet electronic transmissions, was launched into an orbit that goes over the Soviet Union from California's Vandenberg Air Force base. Mr Edward Aldridge, the Air Force Secretary, said it was "the first major step in the recovery" of the Pentagon's space programme.

UK 'spy' writes home

The mother of Mr Roger Cooper, below, the British businessman held for 14 months for allegedly spying in Iran, said last night that he was busy writing himself up press-ups and poems, but she was "desperately worried" about her son's health (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Dr Rosaleen Cooper, aged 92, of Bishopscote, Devon, said: "At last I have had a letter from Roger — the first since he was detained — and he tells me he is trying to do press-ups in his cell."

"I am naturally concerned about his detention and the put-up job of his so-called confession on television. What worries me more than anything is that he is not allowed out for any exercise." She said her son had written to her four times since he was jailed in December 1985.

**What's in a name**

Hong Kong (AFP) — The local press reacted favourably yesterday to the adoption of a new Chinese name by Hong Kong's new Governor, Sir David Wilson, whose former name in Chinese was considered inauspicious.

While Sir David's old name *Ngai Tuk-nga*, could be construed as meaning "hypocrisy to the extent of being dangerous", his new name *Wai Yik-shun* suggests a man of glamour and trust.

Somalia 'attacked'

Nairobi — Somalia said an attack had been launched on it from Ethiopia, but there is no confirmation from other sources (Alastair Matheson writes).

The Somali Defence Ministry reported that an eight-hour battle raged in the Ogaden border area before the attackers were driven back.

Somalia and Ethiopia agreed a year ago to try to patch up their differences over the disputed Ogaden region.

Palme film under fire

Stockholm — Mr Olle Berglund, chief of one of Sweden's two state-run television channels, yesterday accused the United States of trying to block the screening of a Soviet documentary film on the assassination of the Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Olof Palme (Christopher Mosey writes).

Mr Berglund said two officials from the US Embassy in Stockholm visited him and asked for the programme to be scrapped.

The film, *Who Killed Olof Palme?* accuses the CIA and international right-wing forces of complicity in the murder. Meanwhile, Mr Hans Holmer, the Stockholm police chief removed last week by the Government as leader of the murder hunt, was yesterday under investigation by his own force after being formally accused of breaking the law during his arrest in December last year of five Kurds on suspicion of involvement in the Palme case.

Coalition squabbles cast shadow on Shamir's US visit

From David Bernstein
Jerusalem

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, leaves for an official visit to the US tomorrow at a time of heightened tension between his Likud Party and the leading coalition partner in Israel's National Unity Government, the Labour Alignment.

Reports reaching here from Washington this week suggest that the US is concerned about the stability of Mr Shamir's Government, which has been rocked by two big conflicts between Likud and Labour in the past two weeks.

The first concerns Likud's insistence that any government aid to the hard-up United Kibbutz Movement, which is affiliated to Labour, be linked to similar aid to the Likud-supported settlements in the occupied West Bank, Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip.

This conflict has delayed presentation of the state budget in the Knesset for the past two weeks, and it is still not clear when it will be tabled. Failure to approve the budget at its first reading amounts to a vote of no-confidence in the Government and would bring it down.

But the conflict over the budget has this week been overtaken by a much more acerbic and potentially more dangerous clash between Mr Shamir and the Labour leader, Mr Shimon Peres, over the future of the peace process.

Mr Peres has come out solidly in favour of an international peace conference that would include all the permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as all parties directly involved in the Middle East dispute.

The Labour leader sees this as the only avenue for further movement on the peace front, Jordan having made it plain that such a conference

is a precondition for entering the peace process.

He sought and achieved Knesset endorsement in October 1985 for a political programme which includes Israeli participation in an international peace conference as an accompaniment to direct talks between the parties to the conflict, claiming that this commits Israel to the idea and provides him with a mandate to pursue it.

Mr Shamir, on the other hand, argues that the Knesset vote is not binding on the Government, which has never properly discussed or voted on the peace conference proposal. If it were to do so, he made clear this week it would not win a majority.

In the meantime, Mr Shamir said, Mr Peres was entitled to pursue the idea as his "own private hobby horse", but he would not be able to present it as the official policy.

Stung by the remark, Mr Peres

said Mr Shamir was entitled to oppose the idea of an international conference as his private "hobby horse", but he, too, could not present it as approved government policy.

To drive the point home, Labour is expected to press for a discussion — but not a vote — on the subject at tomorrow's weekly Cabinet meeting, before Mr Shamir leaves for Washington.

The international conference proposal is almost certain to come up. The US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, wrote to Mr Shamir earlier this week suggesting that Washington might now be softening its own former opposition to an international conference that would bring the Soviet Union back into Middle East diplomacy.

Vociferous exchanges between Labour and Likud leaders during the past two weeks — over the budget and over the peace process —

have shattered the somewhat uncharacteristic calm that has marked the Israeli political scene since Mr Shamir took over the post of Prime Minister from Mr Peres in October, and talk about an imminent breakdown of the National Unity Government and early elections has been rife in both camps this week.

But, most observers here believe, both Labour and Likud harbour sufficiently strong doubts about their chances of improving on their performance in the deadlocked 1984 general election to make them wary of an early contest at the polls.

Accordingly, unless there is some dramatic movement on the peace front that would force Mr Shamir's Cabinet to take a binding decision on taking part in an international conference, the general feeling here is that the two main parties, having got their feelings off their chest, will return to the uneasy co-operation of the past 2½ years.

Crisis in Lebanon**Gemayel urges EEC to lead reconstruction of economy**

From Richard Owen, Brussels

President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon yesterday left behind him political anarchy and growing economic chaos and appealed to the EEC to take the lead in reconstructing his country.

After 12 years of civil strife, the Lebanese economy was on its knees, President Gemayel told senior EEC officials. A global plan must be drawn up urgently to ensure that chances of restoring political order and consensus in Lebanon were not destroyed by economic disintegration.

He said Lebanon was on "red alert" and that the situation had never been so serious. But he declined to talk about the hostage crisis or the "camps war", saying the delicate position imposed discretion.

Mr Gemayel takes the same urgent message of EEC-led reconstruction to London for talks with Mrs Thatcher and will complete his brief European tour in Paris. At the European Commission head-

quarters in Brussels, where he yesterday met M Jacques Delors, president of the Commission, and other Commissioners, Mr Gemayel said regional Arab states and international organizations would take part in the recovery plan, but the EEC had to take the leading role.

The Commission yesterday announced emergency food and medical aid to Lebanon amounting to £365,000.

Refugee swarms in Syria and its Shia Muslim militia ally in Lebanon were under growing international pressure yesterday to lift the siege around the Palestinian refugee camp of Rourj al-Barajneh in Beirut (Nicholas Beeston writes).

In Jerusalem, hundreds of Palestinian youths staged an angry demonstration against Syria and Amal.

In Harare, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, appealed to the Amal militia to lift the "tragic" blockade.

British doctor in besieged camp

By Nicholas Beeston

The father of a British woman surgeon working in the appalling conditions of a besieged Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut said yesterday that she had elected to remain in Lebanon to save lives and boost the refugees' morale.

Mr Alan Cutting, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, said he last spoke to his daughter Pauline, aged 35, in August. She had been trapped in the Rourj al-Barajneh refugee camp by heavy fighting.

Dr Cutting said by radio this week that the beleaguered refugees were forced to eat cats and dogs because of the lack of food. The camp, the largest in Beirut, has been under attack by Syrian-backed Shia Muslim Amal militiamen for nearly two years.

"Pauline first went to Lebanon at the beginning of April last year for three months and then decided to return in August," said Mr Cutting. "When I asked why she was returning she said she believed she could save some lives and also that her very presence was

an important morale booster to the refugees."

Dr Cutting, the only foreign surgeon in the camp, which has a population of 12,000, is working in an underground operating theatre at the Haifa hospital, run by the Palestine Red Crescent Society.



Dr Cutting: went back to Lebanon to save lives



A protestor flees from a baton-wielding policeman as a student march on Madrid ended in violent clashes yesterday.

March on Madrid ends in riot

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Spanish police made fierce baton charges here yesterday to disperse troublemakers who repeatedly sought to disrupt a "march on Madrid" by tens of thousands of young people protesting against the Socialist Government's education policies.

Nine people were injured and a total of 24 arrests were made.

As the troublemakers, some with iron tubes or staves, threw petrol bombs and bottles at the Education Ministry building, made barricades with parked cars, threw stones at the police and smashed lamp-posts outside the Prado Museum, the approval of ordinary people in Madrid when the police moved in was clear.

The organizers of the march, who had brought in secondary school children by bus and train from the regions, collaborated with the police, stopping the procession several times until the bottle and stone throwers, identified either as right-wing extremists or "punks", had been dispersed.

Violent incidents were also reported yesterday — the last day of a week-long strike in Spain's state sector secondary schools — in Bilbao, Pamplona and Zaragoza.

Princess charms Portuguese

From Alan Hamilton, Oporto

Byron thought the Portuguese village of Sintra perhaps the most delightful in Europe, if not the world, while Southey wrote of it that he had never beheld a view that so effectively checked the wish of wondering.

When the Prince and Princess of Wales, on the third day of their Portuguese tour, arrived yesterday to visit this jewel so beloved of the Romantic poets they found it hidden under an enveloping blanket of mist and drizzle.

Sintra was the favourite home of King João I of Portugal and Philippa of Lancaster, the marriage of whom in Oporto on St Valentine's Day 600 years ago today the Royal couple are here to commemorate.

She decorated one room of the palace with magpies carrying roses in their beaks, as a satirical jest at the court gossip that followed the discovery by his wife of him in the embrace of a lady-in-waiting.

Philippa of Lancaster is much revered in Portugal as the mother of Henry the Navigator, and local genealogists have unravelled a line of descent from her to the Prince of Wales.

Maintaining the tradition, the Portuguese have warmed to the Princess of Wales. She is much more at ease than during her last overseas tour, to the Middle East, when the male-dominated Arab society pushed her into a background role.

At Sintra Palace yesterday, she delighted the crowd when, in spite of the teeming rain, she went walkabout with the Prince among a crowd of

young children who had waited patiently in the wet, wearing paper crowns. When they asked her: "Where is your crown?" she told them she had left it in the car. So they gave her a paper one.

Later the Prince and Princess flew to Oporto to open a British trade exhibition aimed at redressing the Anglo-Portuguese trade balance, running at more than £280 million in Portugal's favour.

While Portuguese textiles continue to pour into Britain, the value of British oil exports to Portugal has fallen considerably with the decline in the world price. Vehicle exports have held up well but Britain is anxious that the Portuguese should buy more of her computers and other high-technology equipment.

Right fails to halt US health aid

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

After months of controversy President Reagan has endorsed an insurance plan to cover catastrophic illness, which he said would help many elderly people to avoid "an intolerable decision — a choice between bankruptcy and death".

The plan is certain to receive congressional approval, and may indeed be expanded. It is bound to be immensely popular throughout the country, where runaway health costs have brought financial ruin to elderly people forced to spend long periods in hospital.

In adopting the plan Mr Reagan, aged 76, took the unusual step of overriding vociferous protests by right-wingers, who want the health care business, including insurance, exclusively in the hands of private enterprise.

The scheme is a triumph for Dr Otis Bowen, the Secretary of Health, a one-time country doctor who drew up the scheme and injected a great deal of personal passion into the debate. Under the plan a person would pay \$4.92 (£3.30) a month in Medicare — the government health care plan for the elderly — in addition to the \$17.90 a month now charged.

Trade war victory sought in classroom

When America feels challenged by rivals and competitors, it looks to its schools and campuses for the answers.

The launch of the first Soviet Sputnik in 1957 heralded one of the greatest expansions of education in American history. Within 15 years the state of California alone could boast more students than almost any West European country.

A generation later, America is again under threat — this time from Japan and other trading partners, as the competitive edge of US industry and exports becomes ever blunter. Again the politicians are seeking a solution in the classrooms.

"We must demand more of ourselves and our children by raising literacy levels dramatically by the year 2000. Our children should master the basic concepts of maths and science," President Reagan proclaimed in his State of the Union address.

The new slogan is "excellence through competitiveness". Mr William Bennett, the feisty Education Secretary, has been reinforcing the message with a barnstorming message across the country. He has demanded a moral dimension to teaching, risked the wrath of the secularists by emphasizing Judeo-Christian values, and urged the setting up of a core-curriculum to raise standards and tighten academic discipline. More than that, he has

rolled up his shirt-sleeves and gone into the classrooms to practise what he preaches.

Already he is winning marks as one of the most articulate conservatives in the Reagan Cabinet as the head of a small and new department with political influence far beyond his constituency.

Mr Bennett has capitalized on the national unease over falling standards, illiteracy among school leavers, incompetent teachers and an epidemic of teenage drug-taking.

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

in inner-city schools, where violence and armed confrontation destroy teachers and pupils alike.

He has taken the war on drugs seriously — one of the few Cabinet members to follow through on an issue that otherwise appeared to have been dropped the minute the congressional elections were over. He has published an official report on Japanese education to force a look at how America's rivals gain a headstart. And he backed university efforts to tighten standards.

Mr Bennett has won little praise from teachers. As a member of the Reagan Administration it is his job not only to hold down costs, but to enforce cuts in federal education programmes which

the President insists on to pay for his defence build-up.

Fellow-Republicans see no contradiction. Between 1960 and 1980 when education spending rose from \$16 billion (£10.3bn) to \$96 billion (£62bn), scores in the tests used for university entrance fell by 90 points. Since 1980, when under President Reagan federal spending levelled off, the scores rose 16 points. More means worse, they argue, and throwing money at education is not the answer.

Democrats, who have also seized on education as an election issue, have ridiculed the proposed cuts in aid to college students this year of \$5.5 billion (£3.6 billion). If more money is the answer to defence, they argue, that must also be the case in education. Bennett counters that some student loans are wasteful and need reforming, while raising school standards is the responsibility of individual states.

Several of them have already seized on this, especially those at the bottom of the list in standardized testing scores. Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina — Southern states with a traditional laissez-faire attitude to schooling — have embarked on crash programmes of improvement, introducing re-certification and teacher examinations, payment by results, building new schools and insisting on tighter academic control.

Across the country, state

spending has risen 15 per cent, while teachers' salaries have gone up by 14 per cent since 1980, though they are still too low to attract and hold good graduates.

Would-be presidential contenders are also baying the education drum. Mr Gary Hart, the Democratic front-runner, wants to spend \$17 billion (£11 billion) over three years on teacher salaries, a national corps of volunteers to teach illiterates, evening adult learning centres, worker re-training institutes, better language teaching and more science and engineering graduates.

He has broken with the traditional liberal education lobby by being as sharp with teachers as with standards; the incompetent should be sacked, the rest more closely watched, he says.

The problem with education is that, though it is a good campaign issue — with horror stories to illustrate the stark awfulness of big city schools — money and commitment do not bring quick results. Democrats talk about investment in the country's future, but there is no visible political pay-off. Republicans argue that central government has never had a role in American classrooms, whereas local funding gives the community a bigger say and better control.

So far, Mr Reagan's new-found commitment to excellence remains no more than a slogan.

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EEC ministers patch up a compromise on 1987 budget

From Richard Owen, Brussels

After 15 hours of talks, EEC budget ministers emerged at dawn yesterday with a compromise version of the disputed 1987 budget likely to prove acceptable to the European Parliament, which debates the new budget next week.

Euro-MPs warned that acceptance by Strasbourg was not a foregone conclusion and that, even if passed, the 1987 budget would appear "wildly inadequate" by the end of the year, as costs rose and revenues fell.

Sir Henry Plumb, president of the European Parliament, said the EEC looked likely to overspend by at least £2 billion.

The European Parliament had demanded an extra £45 million spending this year to maintain the social and regional funds, which are vital to the southern EEC nations. MEPs said they would accept half that figure in order to secure a 1987 budget.

The EEC is currently operating an emergency budget based on 1986 expenditure, a situation described yesterday as untenable by Mr Henning Christophersen, the Budget Commissioner.

In the event, ministers decided to offer Parliament an extra £19 million, using a variety of devices including a "negative reserve fund", saying that the extra spending remained within the "maximum rate" at which expenditure may increase — 8.1 per cent — even though the actual rate of increase is 8.149 per cent.

West Germany, an adherent of budget discipline, said the extra decimal points were unimportant and the compromise did not breach the ceiling on national VAT

contributions to EEC coffers. Britain voted against the compromise, arguing that budgetary discipline had been breached, whatever the cosmetic book-keeping. But budget decisions are taken by majority vote. Spain, Italy and Greece took the opposite view — that the additional spending was inadequate — but dropped their objections.

Sir Henry created a "working" peer this week, held talks on Thursday with M Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, on M Delors plans for an overhaul of EEC finances.

Sir Henry said EEC spending programmes on technology research and social and regional funds had to be protected.

He warned that the overrun of £2 billion the EEC was heading for would be even higher if revenues from customs duties continued to fall and the cost of the common agricultural policy continued to rise.

M Delors, who was told by Mrs Thatcher in London last week that his reform of EEC finances would have to wait until existing resources were better controlled, yesterday held talks in Bonn on the last leg of his tour of EEC capitals.

He will draw up his reform plans this weekend and report to the European Parliament on Wednesday.

The Commission is also expected to announce its long-delayed package of EEC farm prices this weekend before Mr Frans Andriessen, the Agriculture Commissioner, goes to San Diego, California, on Monday for talks on transatlantic differences over farm trade and agricultural subsidies.



Collins contempt action dismissed

Joan Collins, the *Dynasty* star, above, conferring with her lawyer during a court appearance that she had failed to surrender tax documents requested in divorce proceedings by her estranged husband, Peter Holm, right. The judge later dismissed a contempt of court action against her (AP reports from Los Angeles).

Mr John Sandoz, the Superior Court Commissioner, ruled on Thursday that there was a reasonable doubt that Miss Collins, aged 53, who plays Alexis Carrington Colby in the television series, would be found guilty.

Miss Collins testified that her estranged husband, aged



39, a former Swedish rock star, had failed to turn over items she had sought.

She said she was particularly anxious to get back a computer needed by her office staff, two chandeliers and the

bed in which her daughter, Katie, sleeps when she visits.

Mr Holm's lawyer had sought the contempt action.

Miss Collins testified that she left it to her aides to arrange an amicable property exchange while she went on two holidays.

Various Collins assistants testified that there was trouble exchanging the couple's property.

Mr Bernard Casey, her aide, said he went to Mr Holm's house with two lorry loads of items.

He said some items were left there but he held others back because Mr Holm refused to give him property belonging to Miss Collins.

Bees knew secret of Chernobyl disaster

Warsaw (Reuters) — Polish bees headed straight back to their hives when they sensed contamination from the Soviet Union's Chernobyl nuclear disaster while the rest of Poland was still in the dark about the accident, according to a beekeeping expert.

Mr Henryk Ostach, who heads the Polish beekeepers' association, said apiarists were baffled when bees fled for several days after the explosion at the reactor.

"When the explosion occurred, the bees interrupted their flight, although it was a fine sunny day. Not yet knowing anything about what had happened at Chernobyl, we wondered why the bees suddenly hid in their hives."

The beekeepers' association, which has been working to minimize the permeation of contamination, said the bees knew the secret of the disaster.

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Valentine's Day Greetings

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Let's have
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CASSEROLE with
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you can be NICE to me
the rest of the year
D'a as well

How do you spell your NAME?

True love
should
run as
smooth.



The Citroën BX

After five years of research, Israel on Monday begins the trial of John Demjanjuk, a US citizen plucked from obscurity to face charges of war crimes. Gitta Sereny examines the case's curious background, and its likely outcome

Displaced person in the world's dock

The accused, reads Part I of the Israeli prosecution charges against John Demjanjuk, "used to stand at the entrance to the gas chambers... sometimes armed with a sword or bayonet, sometimes with a whip or iron pipe. Whenever a group of naked Jews, coming from the Himmelstrasse, would arrive at the vicinity of the gas chambers, the accused would force his victims into the chambers while tormenting them on their way to death."

John Demjanjuk is the first man to stand trial for war crimes as an alleged member of a group of 4,000 Ukrainians (plus an unknown number of Lithuanians) who actively participated in the Nazi murder of the Jews in "Aktion Reinhard", the special extermination operation in occupied Poland. Although many of the Aktion Reinhard's German SS men, under whom this group worked, have been tried and convicted in Polish and West German courts over the years, none of the Ukrainians or Balts were ever found by the Allies, nor — for political reasons — even sought.

The case is remarkable, too, in that Demjanjuk has already been tried in America on the basis of some of the same testimony and documentation that will now be used in Israel. Although his American trial was a civil proceeding and theoretically on far less serious charges (visa falsification), to all intents and purposes he was tried and found guilty there for the same crime. However, scrupulously fair the Israeli court attempts to be, it is unrealistic to believe that the earlier judgment will not have affected public opinion.

His Ukrainian name was Iwan Nikolai Demjanjuk. As a young man he was tall, slim and strong, with a broad face and light-coloured hair and eyes. Born on April 3, 1920 in the village of Dub Macharenzi, he was driving a tractor on a collective farm when he was called up in late 1940 by the Soviet army.

Serving in an artillery unit when Hitler invaded Russia, he was wounded in autumn 1941 — he still bears the scar on his back. Taken prisoner by the Germans in the Crimea in May, 1942, he ended up in a PoW camp in Chelm, eastern Poland — a terrible place, by all accounts.

In America he adopted the anglicized "John" in 1958 when, after six years' residence, he and his wife Vera — whom he had met and married in a displaced persons camp in southern Germany — applied for citizenship.

By that time they were comfortably established in Cleveland, Ohio, with two small daughters. He had a well-paid job on the assembly line at Ford; they had bought their first house in a Ukrainian suburb, Parma, within easy reach of their church, and since their social life was mainly with Ukrainians, they did not bother much about learning English — they hardly speak it now. But they were on their way to being ideal new American citizens: hard-working, law-abiding, and God-fearing. The past — as for millions of other immigrants — was something to be shelved.

Then in the 1970s a spate of books and articles confronted Washington with claims that thousands of Ukrainians and Balts who had actively collaborated with the Nazis during the war had emigrated to the US under false pretences. An Office of Special Investigations was set up, which soon received from Russia a list of seven men who, they said, had been guards at extermination camps in occupied Poland.

Photographs of the seven, taken from their US visa applications, were shown — uncaptioned — in 1978 to some of the 20 Treblinka survivors in Israel. All separately identified Fedor Fedorenko as a watchtower guard at Treblinka. More remarkably, and quite unexpectedly, three of the survivors, who had worked at Treblinka's Camp II — the "Totenlager", where the victims were gassed and their bodies burnt — pointed to another photograph, each of them explaining: "That's Iwan".

From the autumn of 1941, and continuing over the next two years, the Nazis recruited in Poland, the Ukraine and the Baltic states three categories of "volunteers".

The largest was qualified workers for the factories and mines of Germany who, through posters and local newspapers, were promised "living conditions equal to German workers", money to send home, and preferential food and housing for their families at home. People fought for the chance to go. By 1943 between three and four million volunteers, largely from Poland and the Ukraine, were working in German war production.

The second category which the Nazis recruited, from among the Russian —

especially the Ukrainian — prisoners-of-war were "auxiliaries" — the so-called *Hilfswillige*, who were issued nondescript army fatigues and attached to the Wehrmacht for menial and manual duties. It is doubtful that these PoWs, largely peasants, felt any political commitment to the Germans, but after one winter in the sub-human conditions of the PoW camps, they understandably "volunteered" in preference to almost certain death.

And from everything we know, this probably applied also to the third category, the group that mainly concerns us here: the 4,000-odd Ukrainians and Lithuanians who participated in Aktion Reinhard. Carefully selected over the first six months of 1942 — in batches of 500-800 every six weeks — from the atrocious PoW camps in the western Ukraine and eastern Poland, they were told that they would become auxiliaries of the SS, manifestly the elite of the Germans, with good pay, smart black uniforms and special training, including German weapons.

The essence of Demjanjuk's case has always been that, like countless others born in a tragic time into a traditionally tragic land, he merely did his best to survive and then to escape and erase this heritage. To get to America, it was necessary to tell a few harmless lies that are now part of the documentary evidence in the case, both in America and now in Israel.

He claimed in 1948 that, although Ukrainian by birth, he had been a farmer in Sobibor, Poland, from 1936 to 1943 (a curious slip, as the world knew by this time that this otherwise obscure village had been the site of a death camp), a forced labourer for the Germans at the Danzig harbour until May 1944, then in Munich until 1945. In his US visa application, filed in Stuttgart in 1951, he repeated this history with only minor changes in dates.

This is all untrue, but perhaps understandably so. In the atmosphere of the displaced-person camps, where being identified as having voluntarily helped the Germans, in uniform, could — certainly until 1947 — mean forcible repatriation to Russia, such lies were considered defensible, and thousands no doubt invented them.

At his American trial, he readily amended his story. He had lied, he said, because he was afraid of being sent back to Russia. The truth was, he said, that after being captured by the Germans in the Crimea, he had stayed in the PoW



"I was never at this place," Demjanjuk says during remand in court in Jerusalem

reverse side it bears the photograph of a young man in black SS uniform with a white patch on his chest. It gives the physical details, father's name and birthplace of Iwan Nikolai Demjanjuk. It lists two postings: on September 22, 1942 to "L.G. (Landgut) Oksow" (a farm where, archives show, Jewish women worked as labourers), and on March 27, 1943 to "Sobibor", and a list of issued clothing signed by an SS man, Teufel, and by Demjanjuk.

The German signatures (though not the ID itself) were authenticated by several people familiar with them, and

too late now for such trials, that 45 years is too long for memories to be reliable. Many people, too, uncomfortably recall the media circus of the Eichmann trial and, above all, the agony of the witnesses. Five years have been spent on pre-trial investigation by a large team of prosecutors and academics, and the knowledge of this history is deeper in Israel than anywhere else.

Whatever the disagreements between historians about how and when the Final Solution evolved, they generally agree that its details were only confirmed following the Wannsee Conference of January 20, 1942. But what we can now see is that Trawniki, the installation for training personnel for Aktion Reinhard, was fully planned three months earlier.

Without detailed plans in hand, it would have been impossible to construct or to staff Trawniki. For it involved setting up not one but two camps: one for the Ukrainian auxiliaries and German non-commissioned SS — transferred from the euthanasia programme — who were to be trained and conditioned there. The other was a so-called "transit camp" for Jews, on whom their future guards and executioners could practise their new techniques of containment and discipline.

For the Trawniki Hiwi-SS men were to be given three types of assignment: to drive Jews out of their homes into ghettos, guarding them with guns and whips until they were loaded into transports for the extermination camps; to guard those Jews lucky enough to be assigned temporarily to farms or factories; and to man the extermination camps, both as guards of those who worked, and as executioners of those who died.

By October 1943, when Aktion Reinhard had completed its task in Poland, some of the Ukrainians were transferred to guard duty at concentration camps in Germany. Between 100 and 150 others (according to one of them I talked to recently in Trieste) were moved to northern Italy. There some ended up guarding — and killing — Jews in Trieste; luckier ones guarded SS buildings. Others were transferred to the Waffen-SS, given the SS blood group tattoo on the inside of the left arm (which Demjanjuk had, too) and assigned to anti-partisan combat units, all of them commanded by the same German SS under whom they had worked in Poland.

By late 1944 many of this Ukrainian group began to desert to partisan units. That's what hundreds did, "I was told by Professor Giuliano Fogar, director of the Trieste Research Institute into partisan history. 'Almost all of them got some sort of Italian or Yugoslav-type uniform: it was the safest start until they could get over the mountains to Austria and disappear among the DPs.' (Asked

Worse than the concentration camps

Even today, there is still widespread misunderstanding about the nature of the extermination camps. Exclusively dedicated to industrialized killing by gassing, there were only six, all of them in occupied Polish territory.

Since the end of the war these extermination camps have been confused in people's minds with "concentration camps", of which there were several hundred, where millions died of disease and overwork. But even the worst, like Anaschitz and Majdanek, offered at least the threat of a chance of survival. The extermination camps offered virtually no chance.

The three camps that served exclusively for the gassing of Jews (and gypsies) were Belzec, opened in March 1942; Sobibor, which started in May 1942; and the largest, Treblinka, which began operating in July 1942. Chelmno, the first gassing camp, opened in summer 1941 as a test, was only sporadically used. The concentration camps, unlike the extermination camps, no records were kept, except occasionally, at in-describable risk, by the "workshops" themselves.

The number of Jews killed in Belzec, perhaps around 750,000, has never been officially confirmed, and there was only a single survivor. The official Polish figure for Sobibor was recently adjusted from 250,000 to 500,000 — the figure the 50-odd survivors had always suggested.

For Treblinka (where the original Polish figure of 450,000 was amended at the time of the 1965 Treblinka trial in Düsseldorf, by mutual consent, to 900,000) a new figure was provided in 1972, by Franciszek Zabicki, a heroic Polish resistance worker and the town's station master who, never leaving his post as long as the transports went through, recorded the number on each railway car as it passed him. "I know," he told me when we went to Treblinka together in 1972, "the others guess. The number of people killed at Treblinka was 1,000,200, and there is no doubt about it whatsoever." Zabicki will be testifying at the Demjanjuk trial in Israel.

Out of between two and two-and-a-half million people brought to these three death camps in Nazi-occupied Poland, just 82 people survived.



At Siedlce station, bound for Treblinka

by an American interrogator in pre-trial examination what uniform he had worn at the end of the war, Demjanjuk replied unhesitatingly: "Italian".

Within a month of the end of the war, UNRRA — the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration — had established dozens of displaced person camps for refugees in the three Western zones of Germany, and some in Austria. By the autumn of 1945 they were caring for some five million DPs, among whom virtually all the Ukrainians from that particularly vulnerable group managed to submerge themselves.

About 150,000 Russians, who had been set up by the Germans as an "army of liberation", were banded back to the Soviet Union; most were executed the moment they got back to Russia. Following public disquiet about this, in December 1945 the McNary-Clark directive from the Foreign Office and

State Department restricted the people who could be forced to return to Russia to those who had collaborated in uniform.

It was, then, imperative for all these, even if comparatively innocently like many of the Wehrmacht Hiwis, to change identity or at least to adapt their papers. This applied most urgently to the Ukrainian and Baltic SS who had worked in Aktion Reinhard and the concentration camps of the Third Reich. By 1947 the overwhelming majority of the million or so refugees who remained were hoping to go to the US, where huge colonies of Poles and Ukrainians were firmly established. Visa applications, however, had to demonstrate the "good moral character" of the applicants.

It was in these circumstances that thousands of minor skin grafts were carried out to remove the SS tattoos, and innocuous life stories were invented to hide past activities which would have made the visas unobtainable.

The trial in Israel will have to show how this applied to John Demjanjuk. In his American trial, he claimed that he gave false information on his visa application only because he had joined the Germans' Russian "army of liberation" and was afraid he would be sent back to Russia. On the face of it, his explanation could be true.

Evidence points overwhelmingly to Demjanjuk having been in Trawniki, on Aktion Reinhard, and therefore that, in whatever role, he took an active part in the extermination of the Jews.

To prove the specific charges — that he was "Iwan the Terrible", committing specific atrocities in Treblinka — the Israeli prosecutors are relying on new documentation they have received and on the 52 witnesses they are calling, including four former SS men from Treblinka and eight Treblinka survivors.

John Demjanjuk's supporters include many tens of thousands of compassionate Ukrainian-Americans, who have by now contributed more than a million dollars for his defence. Those, however, who are orchestrating it are highly motivated and politically committed men with connections to the radical right in West Germany, the same groups who have lobbied for decades against the historical acceptance of the Final Solution.

The case has been deliberately set up by the Russians, they say, using a forged wartime document, and faked Russian army photographs of young Ukrainians apparently wearing German uniforms. Gullible Americans were fed these things through Jews in the US Department of Justice and the media.

Demjanjuk's lawyer Mark O'Connor emphasizes that "the defence entirely concedes the facts of Treblinka". But "Iwan the Terrible is dead," he says. "He was killed in the revolt in 1943. This has been definitely established by witnesses we found in Poland and Germany."

If this were true, of course, it would effectively end the case. But testimony in the 1965 Treblinka trial, in Düsseldorf, established that "Iwan" survived.

The evidence O'Connor is relying on was obtained in Poland and Germany by Jerome A. Brenner, a Latvian-born travel agent in Cleveland, Ohio, who has been busy in Demjanjuk's defence for several years. The statement "on oath" he obtained in Germany is unlikely to carry much weight in an Israeli or any other court: it is from Kurt Franz, the most monstrous of the SS officers in Treblinka, who is serving a life-sentence in Münster. In Poland, the War Crimes Commission has publicly accused Brenner of spreading antisemitic propaganda and of bribing Polish citizens to provide false statements. Mark O'Connor says the Poles will be sued for defamation.

But he may find that he is not very wise in the company he keeps: Brenner is president of the Cleveland chapter of the St. Raphael Society, a Catholic lay organization for the benefit of "travellers in need". In 1946-47 their Rome chapter, headed by a German priest, Father Anton Weber, was helpful in getting a number of rather special "travellers in need" out of Europe — among them Adolf Eichmann.

John Demjanjuk is no Eichmann. He is a simple man, with only four years' formal education. His real dilemma is that, both for those who accuse and those who defend him he has become a symbol and an instrument, rather than a man. The danger of such passions is that they can ultimately risk obliterating the individual's needs and even his rights.

Gitta Sereny is the author of *Into that Darkness*. (Picador £2.95.)

Rising from the Ashes

A few weeks ago, on behalf of Peter Lush, manager of the England cricket team, I bemoaned the fact that, despite retaining the Ashes, the team had received not one whisper of congratulations from either Mrs Thatcher or Richard Tracey, the Sports Minister. This week, an official from the British High Commission telephoned to ask whether I would take collection of an important official telegram. Bingo! It was from Mrs Thatcher congratulating the team on their grand slam.

Now showing

I read in our sister newspaper, *The Australian*, that the England cricketers are making a film series of their triumphant Australian tour. The theme music, it is claimed, will be Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance* with one special calypso variation in honour of West Indian-born Gladstone Small, Phillip DeFreitas and Wilf Slack — known affectionately in the team as the "Three Degrees". The producers have allegedly approached Sylvester Stallone to play Ian Botham and the chunky Aussie actor Ricky May to play Mike Gatting. The world's greatest tragic actor Sir Laurence Olivier is being sought to play

SPORTING DIARY

Frances Edmonds in Australia

Australian captain Allan Border, though special effects and make-up will be necessary to age him for the role.

Bagged

The England players, who with 31 international flights in 3½ months have flown the equivalent of twice around the world, have packed their bags for the flight home. Consigned to the payload of the team's biggest sponsors, British Airways, are 135 pieces of luggage weighing more than 1½ tons, 30 pieces of hand baggage, five crates of wine, two cases of Bollinger and a large Liberty's hatbox (guess who's?). A BA spokesman admitted that he was relieved to hear that Chris Broad has already disposed of the car he was awarded as International Cricketer of the Year.

Kanga people

During a break in the World Series match in Sydney, the crowd was treated to an exhibition of Kanga

cricket, a modified version of the game designed to foster interest among the very young. The most endearing spectacle was that of an Aboriginal boy bowling to a small Vietnamese girl.

Putt out

Currently on sale in Australia is the Greg Norman putter. Modestly priced at around £40, the club has a head shaped like a shark, the fins of which are designed to facilitate lining up the ball on the green. Forget the mother-in-law's hand knitted electric-green or incandescent fuchsia bepon-pommed club covers, the shark-putter comes complete with its own little blue rubbery wet suit.

Fitting

After Alan Crevie, commodore of the Royal Perth Yacht Club, handed over the glistening America's Cup to Fred Frye, commodore of the San Diego Yacht Club, Frye in turn presented Crevie with a bicycle spanner. The

implication was that the spanner, being of metric design, would be useless in trying to wrest the trophy from the San Diego club, where it will be firmly secured with imperial-measure bolts.

● In the wake of the America's Cup, a few statistics: applications for media passes totalled 3,100; the race rule book ran to 216 pages; cost and lifespan of a mainsail averaged £20,000 and 40 hours; 40 bicycles were stolen from the New Zealand team; and, finally, the Italia crew smashed up seven Alfa Romeos.



Church on Sunday, Neville? What on earth's come over you?

Love on Threadneedle St

When a friend of mine suddenly started ripping up the G-for-Guinness section of his Filofax, I decided to examine the folder more closely. A deluxe American model, it even had a section called Life Goals, one of which was To Acquire a Beautiful Mistress.

But surely, I asked, aren't mistresses a bit old hat, conjuring up images of Sixties' films where the girls in question had northern accents and lived in pre-Yuppie Nottingham? He immediately reeled off a list of his mistress-fancying heroes from Sir Ralph Halpert to J.R. Ewing to point out how wrong I was. While in politics this form of "insider dealing" could end in tears, in the City it was a proof of one's worth.

Oh I see, I said, like a yacht or a racehorse, as confirmation of your spending power? However, I was wrong again. A mistress can reflect a man's astuteness. Gone are the days when you went into Harrods perfume department and waved money. Now it needs guile.

First, he explained, one has to select the right sort of "company". If you go for the younger Page Three type of model you could end up being sniggered at on the nation's breakfast tables. What

really is required is a discreet, elegant lady of middle years in mild financial difficulty who is already another's mistress.

A takeover, in City terms, is always preferable to "green field" development where you can spend a fortune in nightclubs before the right girl comes along. All this, I ventured, appeared to be very immoral and quite out of step with Britain's return to Victorian values. But such a suggestion was apparently stuff and nonsense. For a start, were not mistresses part of the Victorian daily round? Lord Palmerston could not be trusted with a woman until well into his 70s and actually died on the billiard table at Brocket Hall while demonstrating a shot to his mistress that could not possibly be screened on TV.

As for the medical angle, said my friend, this showed my ignorance of classical history. Did not the Emperor Claudius buy a house for the courtesan Calpurnia and take her exclusively as his mistress when a pox epidemic was at its height, purely for reasons of imperial hygiene? That was good asset management and well within government Aids guidelines. Intrigued, I asked how he intended

to effect his takeover of an older company for a bit of insider dealing. Where did one begin to look? He said he had his eye on the undervalued Parisienne mistress of a once wealthy but now geriatric film director who had fallen on lean times. The takeover was now, he confessed, in its last crucial stage. He had already won the lady's confidence and was the junior sleeping partner in the timeshare consortium. As the director's battered Daimler trundled out of the drive, minutes later my friend's GTI would whizz in.

How, I inquired from sheer curiosity, was the *coup de grace* to be administered? Was he buying her expensive presents? Not a bit of it, old boy. He did, however, take around the odd coffee-table book on heart disease which has led Fifi to be increasingly apprehensive of what will happen if "Cecil B. de Mille" pops off mid-reel. Clandestinely removing the corpse of a lover is not the sort of service Bupa as yet provides.

Takeover is thus imminent for a very modest outlay. Yet even these chaps can make mistakes. As Sir Ralph has found, in the City one can get more than one bargains for.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

GOING THEIR WAY?

Since Britain's transport problems are those of affluence, it was to be hoped that Mr Neil Kinnock's Labour Party, having announced its intention to come to terms with the issues of the eighties, would make a distinctive but realistic contribution to solving them. In one respect, the Labour party statement on transport can claim to have done just that — and against the odds. Its plans for increased taxation on company cars are strongly rooted in both equity and economics. And since past Labour governments have been dissuaded from this step by the car industry unions, on the grounds that more rigorous tax-policy would prejudice jobs, this proposal represents a real advance.

In other respects, there will be a sense of genuine disappointment that Labour policy-makers seem to be retreating to ideas based on the early post-war situation. In the fifties, public transport still accounted for four-fifths of inland passenger mileage, divided equally between rail and bus. The motor car, which within living memory had been a prerequisite of the better off, then provided barely more than a sixth, and the humble bicycle the rest.

By the early Eighties, in spite of massive and exponentially-growing subsidies, rail's share of this total had fallen to 6 per cent, that of buses and coaches to 7 per cent, while the share of taxis and hire cars had risen to over 2½ per cent, and the motor car had come to account for a rising 85 per cent. In addition, rail carried just over a tenth of all freight — much of this coal to power stations. The rest, including goods carried to and from rail heads and airports, goes by road.

By now, with declining exceptions, the vast majority of families with a member physically capable of driving own at least one car. Taking recession and boom years together, road passenger and freight traffic tends to grow at an annual rate of 3 or 4 per cent, i.e. adding rail's share every two or three years.

Public transport is no longer, if it ever was, the reserve of the poor. On the contrary, its patronage is roughly commensurate with income, since much travel is concerned with either earning or spending money. Rail use is heavily weighted in favour of the middle and upper-middle income groups, especially the much-courted commuter-electors of the Home Counties.

Labour's proposals to increase rail subsidies — which have continued their secular increase under the supposedly skinflint Tories and now total £100 million a month, providing half BR's total revenue — and to increase petrol tax still further (with all its implications for cost levels and the RPI), could no more return a significant proportion of passenger and freight traffic to rail than the increases under this government have done.

Nor is there any reason to take for granted that greater subsidies to buses and coaches — where they do not compete with rail — will tempt many out of their cars. People's choice of transport reflects their convenience, which they understand, rather than the cost, which few bother to work out.

Increased local authority subsidies in recent decades have dulled the sensitivity of transport operators to passenger-preference, and enhanced their sensitivity to the

whims of their political paymasters, whose decisions in turn are strongly influenced by the transport and public employee unions. The result, as transport statistics demonstrate, has been falling traffic and traffic-receipts, substantial wage increases and over-manning, and further growth in what could be called, by analogy with the CAP, the "Bus Mountain" — the myriad of empty seats carried expensively around the country.

Unions and local authorities have been the most resistant to experiments with mini buses, whose higher frequencies, greater friendliness to passengers, ability to penetrate badly-planned peripheral council estates and to reduce labour costs, have actually increased traffic and shown that the right kind of passenger transport can be profitable. Alas, the new Labour Party statement shows an old face towards the concept of profitability. Grants are accordingly promised galore. Estimates of the additional costs of these programmes and the tax rates which would be needed to finance them would have been welcome as an accompaniment to the statement.

In default, a recent estimate of £3 billion for the annual bill of public passenger transport subsidies, whose level the statement regards as wholly inadequate, indicates the order of magnitude of the costs which would be generated by an attempt to turn the clock back. Such an attempt seems in any case bound to founder on the innate resistance of a car-owning democracy, which came about without government will and remains above party.

UNDER WESTERN EYES

For five days now a quiet quarter of central Moscow has been the scene of street demonstrations that have ended in violence. People have been injured; others have been detained. (It is, or should be, immaterial that some of them were Western journalists.) In their response, the Soviet authorities have shown both the extent and the limits of the changes now taking place in their country.

In the past, fear has discouraged many demonstrations; brute force prevented the remainder. The fact that people this week made a public protest several days running on behalf of an imprisoned Jewish refusenik suggests that the publicity given to recent releases of political prisoners may have inspired hope of further releases among those whose relatives are still in prison. The demonstrations may also reflect — though the courage of the demonstrators should not be underestimated — that the long-standing fear of protest may be diminishing.

This diminution of fear, which has been encouraged by Mr Gorbachev's appeals for glasnost and more open criticism, itself contains risks for the Soviet authorities. There are indeed groups in the leadership who sense dangers in adopting softer attitudes towards political dissent. They are likely to argue that a little openness will encourage demands for still more, and to

cite the demonstrations on behalf of Iosif Begun as a harbinger of further disorder.

It must also be recognized, however, that the causes of political dissenters and of Soviet Jews wishing to emigrate are by no means universally popular in the Soviet Union. While the claim that this week's demonstrations were broken up by a spontaneous "citizens' protest" is a laughable pretence, it is not beyond belief that future demonstrations might be ended in this way — with or without the connivance of the authorities. Groups are already emerging in the Soviet Union, notably among conscripts returned from Afghanistan, who view dissent and public protest as part and parcel of the corruption and lawlessness besetting Soviet society, and they have set up vigilante groups to deal with it.

Eye-witnesses of this week's demonstrations say plainly, however, that they were broken up not by vigilantes but by plain-clothes police or KGB officers. The fact that the Foreign Ministry spokesman officially denied this, suggested either that there is one version of the truth for Westerners and another for Soviet citizens, or — even more sinister perhaps — that a contest for authority is in progress in which the allegiance of the KGB cannot be assumed to be unconditionally with Mr Gorbachev. In this

case, speculation about a possible backlash against his reforms cannot yet be dismissed.

Regardless of the truth of such speculation, the Moscow demonstrations provide a salutary corrective to the view that Moscow's record on human rights is about to show a radical improvement. Iosif Begun, on whose behalf protests were staged, is a Jewish activist imprisoned in 1983 for anti-Soviet activity, the charge which — we are told — may be removed from the Soviet statute book.

Begun has not so far been released, it is reported, because he declined to sign or to accept an undertaking not to commit similar offences in the future. Like many Soviet Jews, he wishes either to work for the Jewish cause at home or to emigrate. He therefore fails to fit the current Soviet criteria for mercy. Until his right to emigrate, and the right of those like him, is recognized, however, there can be no talk of a real change in the human rights climate in the Soviet Union.

Curious Russians like to quote a saying: Seeing once with your own eyes is better than reading about it 100 times. The same, unfortunately for Mr Gorbachev, is true of openness and human rights. What we have seen on television this week from Moscow belies Mr Gorbachev's fine words about democracy to come.

FOURTH LEADER

It could only happen in England. At Quedgeley, in Gloucestershire, an application for planning permission to build 31 homes has been withdrawn in the face of opposition from the villagers, who have argued that the development would destroy the habitat of a colony of Great Crested Newts; in addition, the Department of the Environment, entering into the spirit of the thing, declared an 11th century moat on the site an ancient monument, which helped to scupper the scheme.

We never knew that the Department of the Environment cared about newts. But we were in no doubt that the countryfolk of England do. Who has not seen a photograph of the famous road-sign which says "Stop — Toads Crossing"? And if the traffic of England can be halted for toads, be assured that the building of 31 houses will take second place to the comfort of the local newts.

And so it should. We do not pretend to admire the politics of Mr Kenneth Livingstone.

But the fact that he likes newts, indeed keeps them as pets, suggests that he is not wholly bad. The newt is by no means the lowliest of creatures; after all, St Francis pardoned the flea which bit him. But the newt, we rather feel, is the very last and least on the list of beasts that can inspire real affection; at any rate, we never heard of anyone tickling a black-beetle under the chin, or going all misty-eyed at the thought of a baby jellyfish. The good people of Quedgeley, though, faced with a threat to their amphibious little friends, sprang to the defence, their oriflamme embroidered with the ancient motto: Arms and the newt we sing.

We say it could only happen in England, and we are sure we are right, and proud of it. Heine said of this country that the sea would have swallowed England long ago if it had not been afraid of getting indigestion, and we see what he meant; we are proud of that, too.

No boasting, please; we do not claim to be better than

others, but we do insist that we are different. In particular, we tend to order our priorities in a manner which other nations cannot understand. When the bulldozers come to break ground for building, we link arms in front of them, and when the puzzled foreman explains that there is no intention of knocking down our houses, we reply "No, but you are going to disturb our newts; be off with you". And when the builders turn to the authorities for assistance against the newt-fanciers, the authorities, with a straight face, put a listing-order on a hole in the ground, and murmur "Fancy that."

Sleep on, little newts, or splash about in your pond; either way you are safe, because you are in England — Merrie England, this sceptred isle, land of scholars and nurse of arms, nation of shopkeepers and hearts of oak, made of "faith, and green fields, and honour, and the sea", where 62 newts rank above 31 houses. *Milford Thou shouldst be living at this hour!*

He probably is.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fear of return to spend and rue

From Professor A. P. Thirlwall
Sir, In your leader of February 10 you refer to the worry that tax cuts will suck in imports and lead directly to a balance of payments crisis as a "classic example of demand-side myopia" which ignores any potential effects on the capacity of the economy to supply. I believe that you vastly underestimate the seriousness and precariousness of the current economic situation.

At the moment the current account of the balance of payments just about balances with over three million unemployed. At the margin for every pound increase in income the value of imports rises by nearly half that amount. When you talk of increases in supply, are you seriously suggesting that small cuts in personal taxation will significantly reduce that propensity to import?

You refer to increases in effort, but all the economic research indicates that the effect of changes in the marginal rate of tax on work effort is neutral.

You make no reference to investment, which is the real key to increased output. But investment takes time, and if it is to take place the expansion of demand must be expected to last. What confidence can private industry have when the commitment to full employment has gone and economic policy for so long was one of monetary and fiscal contraction, such that investment in manufacturing industry is now lower than it was in 1979 and real interest rates average 10 per cent?

History also has some salutary lessons to teach. There was the Maudslugh dash for growth in 1963 which led, in 1964, to the largest balance of payments deficit in

peacetime history (until then). Then there was the Barber boom of 1972, fuelled by tax cuts of £2 billion, which contributed to a turnaround in the balance of payments from a surplus of £1.1 billion in 1971 to a deficit of £1 billion in 1973 (before the price of oil rose).

Exactly the same will happen this time, as night follows day. The balance of payments straitjacket, which has constrained economic policymaking at least since the Second World War, and some would say since the turn of the century, will tighten its grip once again.

The entire thrust of economic policy is misdirected. The whole of economic policy needs to be geared to raising the growth rate of exports and reducing the import propensity if there is to be any hope for sustained future growth and for the unemployed.

You put your faith in currency depreciation. This orthodoxy has been singularly unsuccessful in the past in putting the economy on a higher growth path consistent with balance of payments equilibrium and there is no reason to suppose that the future will be any different.

The time is more ripe to consider more imaginative solutions to Britain's perennial dilemma. *Faute de mieux* this would have had to be considered long ago if the surplus from oil had not seduced us into incredible complacency.

Yours sincerely,
A. P. THIRLWALL,
Keynes College,
The University of Kent at Canterbury,
Canterbury, Kent.
February 11.

Unconscious Britain

From Mr Robert Bolton
Sir, It is easy to agree with Bernard Williams's contention in "Beyond unconscious Britain" (February 10) that the real problem with this country is a failure of consciousness, as examples of its effects are numerous enough. The problem is with his proposed solution, that of more and better education, which is often called for in disregard for the fact that education is subject to even more powerful forces.

Human nature may be in need of what education can do for it, but it does not naturally want it, and as a matter of fact only two things have ever overcome its resistance, namely, religion and

state authoritarianism. If, as Bernard Williams seems to assume, society had the will to impose education upon itself, there would be no problem because consciousness would then be in control.

A revival of education therefore cannot be expected without either a major religious revival or the imposition of a totalitarian regime. The latter alternative may become the more probable of the two as a result of what happens when freedom is granted to ever-increasing numbers of people who abuse it.

I am thankful that the stereotype of the distant, punitive father has disappeared. We now have a different and better ideal of family life, in which father and mother together contribute their particular gifts: both of them giving unconditional love to their children and both of them helping their children to achieve the self-discipline that is needed as the basis for mature adult life.

In the Bible we find both "motherly" and "fatherly" love used as images for God's love. So in the Church we need priests, both women and men, who can reflect and teach the mutuality and co-operation which are at the heart of the discipline and are also a true mirror of the nature of God.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT MARTIN,
Quantocks,
Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset.

Travelling alone

From Mr R. C. Martin
Sir, I rejoice at the plea for the single traveller voiced by Wynette Mears (Wednesday Page, February 11). Yet this by no means affects only the "package" holidaymaker.

From 1931 onwards my wife and I motored frequently in Great Britain and on the Continent. Except at obviously busy seasons we never had problems in finding a room for the night.

By contrast, since 1966, when I have been a widower, I have journeyed a good deal in my retirement, visiting small travel books. Until the hour of 7pm, approximately, no hotelier will admit that such a thing as a single room even exists. Why? Because until that hour he is still hoping to secure a "pair", lodged perhaps in a room so tiny that it would be cramped for a single.

One can see his point of view. This means selling two evening

meals and perhaps double the drink. But this also means often that rooms stand empty when he could have opted for "half a loaf".

Ought not hoteliers to reflect on the economics of this — apart from the good will which can be reaped from a welcome to a "single", who may well return in their off-season?

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT MARTIN,
Quantocks,
Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset.

Aids blood tests

From Dr Richard Gabb
Sir, In view of the likely epidemic of Aids cases projected by the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre, is it not time to advocate the compulsory blood testing of partners prior to marriage, as in the United States?

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD GABB,
5 Lovell Close, South Wonston,
Winchester, Hampshire.

Artificial grass

From the Director General of the Sports Council

Sir, The issue of whether artificial grass surfaces should be acceptable in the Football League has caused considerable debate, and the decision by the FA to impose a three-year moratorium has given rise to frustration within the industry, exemplified by Mr Campbell's letter of February 10.

It is important to correct the misunderstanding that there is no proper specification. Two years of research funded by the Sports Council, the Football Association and the Football Trust led to the publication, in 1983, of a performance standard for artificial grass surfaces for soccer based on recommendations of a working party which was chaired by Sir Walter Winterbottom and which included players, coaches and administrators for Football League clubs.

The remit of the working party was to produce a specification which equated to the playing characteristics of good natural turf league pitches. The three artificial pitches that were subsequently installed at Luton, Preston and Oldham all attempted to meet the standard set, but there is no evidence yet that it has been attained for any length of time.

Nixon on Macmillan

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton, Pavilion (Conservative)
Sir, I have only recently seen ex-President Nixon's article (January 28) regretting American policy over Suez in 1956. This must be regarded as a most generous and handsome apology, coming as it does from the man who was Vice-President of the United States at the time. It will give some comfort to those of us who supported Sir Anthony Eden's efforts to save the Middle East from the brink of catastrophe to which Nasser had brought it.

Mr Nixon's article was entitled, "My debt to Macmillan". It is

only fair to say that Mr Nixon made a very important personal contribution to the restoration of good relations between Washington and London.

He was the guest of honour at a small dinner in Downing Street given soon after Mr Macmillan became Prime Minister. Most of us who were there were resentful of the part the United States had played over Suez.

After dinner Mr Nixon made a short speech. As Vice-President he could scarcely be expected to denounce his government's policy. But he went out of his way to express understanding of what Britain and France had tried to do at Suez and, looking to the future,

Sheep disposal in Falklands

From the Chairman of the Falkland Islands Sheep Owners' Association

Sir, I write to deny your report in *The Times* (January 27) that there is a "mutton glut" in the Falklands and that the farmers simply "push their surplus sheep over cliffs".

There is no mutton glut in these islands but, as in all sheep-farming countries, there is a surplus of stock of all types at the end of each season which cannot be absorbed by local markets or exported. The majority of this surplus is made up of elderly breeding ewes which are not suitable for human consumption, even if required for that purpose.

Where these surplus sheep can no longer be maintained on the available pasture they have to be disposed of under our strict anti-hydatid disease law. They must be burned, buried, or stand for a minimum of 28 days in dog-proof containers, usually wire-netting cages, to kill any infection present.

When a farm is disposing of amounts which may vary from less than 100 to one or two thousand for which there is no possible market, the method usually adopted is to store the slaughtered carcasses in a dog-proof cage, either in a field or, where practicable, on a cliff edge. At the end of the 28-day period the decomposed carcasses can be pushed over the cliff for rapid consumption by sea birds or, if in a field, spread to dry and then burned.

The report can be and obviously has been read as suggesting that the sheep are pushed over cliffs alive. This is quite definitely not so. If any farmer should be so stupid as to do so he would find himself the swift receiver of action by our police and courts.

Yours faithfully,
R. M. PITALUGA, Chairman,
Falkland Islands Sheep Owners' Association,
Fitzroy Road,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.
February 6.

Images of love

From Lady Nairne
Sir, The assertion by Rabbi Gastwirth, in his article today (February 7), that "The age of permissiveness has come about because of the lack of the fear of punishment" is as questionable as the out-of-date concept of family life which he presents.

I am thankful that the stereotype of the distant, punitive father has disappeared. We now have a different and better ideal of family life, in which father and mother together contribute their particular gifts: both of them giving unconditional love to their children and both of them helping their children to achieve the self-discipline that is needed as the basis for mature adult life.

In the Bible we find both "motherly" and "fatherly" love used as images for God's love. So in the Church we need priests, both women and men, who can reflect and teach the mutuality and co-operation which are at the heart of the discipline and are also a true mirror of the nature of God.

Yours faithfully,
PENNY NAIRNE,
The Master's Lodgings,
St Catherine's College,
Oxford.
February 7.

From Rabbi John D. Rayner

Sir, Rabbi Gastwirth's otherwise well-taken article requires three corrections: the defective spelling of the Deity as G-d is not a general Jewish custom but an idiosyncrasy of a small minority; Rabbi Akiba was martyred in the year 135, not 165; and the dual, maternal and paternal, nature of God, far from arguing against the ordination of women, positively demands it.

Yours truly,

JOHN D. RAYNER,
The Liberal Jewish Synagogue,
28 St John's Wood Road, NW8.
February 8.

Questionable recall

From Lord Wyatt of Weeford
Sir, The BBC is planning a programme about Miss Christine Keeler (report, February 10) which inevitably will cover her relations with Mr John Profumo. The BBC will doubtless justify this by claiming that it has a right to conduct investigative journalism however squalid and even though the events occurred nearly a quarter of a century ago.

Mr Profumo has suffered greatly for what many, including myself, regard as a minor wrong. Since he left Parliament in June, 1963, he has dedicated his life to helping others, particularly as chairman of Toynbee Hall, and has more than expiated the offence of misleading the Commons in a matter not concerning government.

I know that Mr Macmillan was also deeply moved by what Mr Nixon had said.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1.
February 9.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 14 1907

The Cresta run emerged from the activities of the Toboggan Club of St Moritz, formed in 1884. Bandy was a rudimentary form of ice hockey played with bent stick and ball.

WINTER SPORTS IN SWITZERLAND

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The first question a visitor to Switzerland in the winter asks as a rule is, "What sort of weather are you having?" Upon the answer which he receives depend all his chances of outdoor amusement. Most localities during the present season have suffered from an excess of snow and from too high temperatures. Christmas week was excessively cold and comparatively fine; but the following days saw hundreds of tons of snow deposited over the land, the depth of the falls being in some cases quite abnormal.

Some of the snow which was so generously distributed at other places would have been welcome at St. Moritz with its artificial Cresta and bobsleigh runs. Both last season and this there has been a deficiency; and it is only due to the perseverance and energy of Mr. J. M. Chambers on the bobsleigh run and Mr. C. Knapp on the Cresta that the runs have been in use at all. Possibly the small depth of snow may have contributed to the fatal result of the very sad accident to Captain H. S. Pennell, V.C., who died at St. Moritz on January 19 after a fall over the Shuttlecock bank on the Cresta. A tumble when one is going anything from 30 to 50 miles an hour cannot but be risky, even if one falls into deep snow; unfortunately this season the snow at St. Moritz is not very deep, and it is also possible that Captain Pennell's fall was made worse because the snow had been trampled down by the onlookers who had run to the assistance of Mr. Grieve, who fell at the same spot.

... English figure-skating no longer holds the position that it formerly occupied. In the days when invalids or the adventurous alone thought of visiting Switzerland in the winter, amusements were fewer and less well organized than they are now, so that the visitors who generally spent several weeks in their winter resort, had ample opportunity to devote themselves to the laborious process of learning figure skating. But nowadays amusements are more numerous, and the average visitor has but two or three weeks at his disposal so he not unreasonably abandons figure skating as being an art that requires more time than he can spare, and he takes himself to skiing, or bobsledding, or curling, or even bandy.

Slating, bandy, tobogganing, and curling all lend themselves to matches and competitions, but there is no doubt that the sport that is making most progress among every class is that of ski-ing. It appeals to the natives as a class, as well as to the visitors; and the reason is not far to seek. All the other sports confine one to a single spot, and, with the exception of skating, they also split up parties. Active young men do not set forth to curl with middle-aged ladies, nor to play bandy with elderly gentlemen. The tobogganer leads a life of one dimension; the skater is confined to two. But young and old of either sex go forth on ski, and are not limited in their expeditions, except by their own skill and endurance. Ski races and slaloms have been invented by the athletes; but the true ski-er aims at making his way across country and at investigating new scenes...

Oxbridge doubles

From Mr Henry G. Button
Sir, The Fellows of Peterhouse, Cambridge, have chosen Professor Henry Chadwick, once Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, to be their next Master. He thereby achieves a remarkable Oxbridge double.

The last man to do so seems to have been John Wilkins, who was Warden of Wadham College, Oxford, from 1648 to 1659 before becoming Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. In the previous century John Crayford, who was Master of Clare Hall (now Clare College), Cambridge, from 1530 to 1539, later served as Master of University College, Oxford, from 1546 until his death in 1547.

Professor Owen Chadwick was Master of Selwyn College, Cambridge, from 1956 to 1983. The only similar example of brotherly heads of separate houses at Oxford and Cambridge seems to consist of Lancelot Andrews, Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, from 1589 to 1605, and his younger brother, Roger Andrews, who was Master of Jesus College, Cambridge, from 1618 to 1632.

The brothers Jegon, John and Thomas were successively Masters of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, from 1590 to 1603 and from 1603 to 1618.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY G. BUTTON,
7 Amhurst Court,
Grange Road, Cambridge.
February 9.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BLANCHAM PALACE
February 13 The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Manchester Victoria Station in the Royal Train this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater Manchester, Sir William Downward.
His Royal Highness Chancellor subsequently visited Salford University and was received by the Mayor of Salford (Councillor T. A. Hobbs) and the Vice-Chancellor (Professor J. Ashworth).
The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by Major Rowan Jackson RN, later returned to London in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hertfordshire (Mr Simon Bowles)
Mrs John Floyd and Wing Commander Adam Wise were in attendance.
KENSINGTON PALACE
February 13 Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the Girls' Public Day School Trust, was present this morning at a Service of Thanksgiving for the Restoration of the Malt Mill Lane Sheltered Housing Scheme followed by a Reception at Goldsmiths' Hall to mark the occasion of the Centenary of Streatham Hill and Clapham High School.
Mrs Michael Harvey was in attendance.
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Mrs Michael Harvey was in attendance.

Royal engagements

TODAY The Duchess of Kent will open the new Norwich City Football Club stand at Carrow Road and attend their 'at home' match at 1.30.
TOMORROW The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a service of thanksgiving at Alcester Parish Church for the restoration of the church at 11.25 and will later visit the Malt Mill Lane Sheltered Housing Scheme for the Elderly in Alcester, Warwickshire at 2.10.

Birthdays

TODAY The Right Rev Peter and the Right Rev Michael Ball, 55 Sir John Clark 61 Sir Arnold Elton 61 Lieutenant-Colonel M. St. J. Gibbs 70 Sir Derrick Holden-Brown 64 Mr Kevin Keegan 38 Mr John MacGregor MP 50 Mr William Mann 65 the Hon Christopher Montcalm 35 Countess Mountbatten of Burma 63 Professor Sir Charles Gledhill 83 the Hon Humphrey Phillips 83 Professor R.J.V. Pulver 90 Mr Michael Rudman 48 Dr Albert Sloman 66 Sir John Stenhouse 76 Mr Jocelyn Stevens 55 Mr D.M. Stewart 57.
TOMORROW Sir Harold Bealey 78 Sir William Bentley 60 Miss Claire Bloom 36 Sir Stephen Brown 81 Sir Arthur de la Mare 71 Mr Justice Drake 64 Mr Frank Dunlop 60 the Countess of Dysart 73 Mr Paul Ferns 58 Mr Gerald Harper 58 Sir Douglas Howard 66 the Earl of Jersey 66 Miss Diana Jones 37 the Earl of Mar and Kellie 66 Sir Richard O'Brien 67 Miss Jane Seymour 36 Mr Adrian Swire 55 Sir George Taylor 83 Dr G. Templeman 74 the Right Rev R.W. Woods 74.

National Council for Soviet Jewry

At the biennial election meeting of the National Council for Soviet Jewry, Mr Neil Bradman, a London businessman, was elected chairman. He succeeds Mr Arnie Handler.
Also elected to the executive were Mrs Ruth Eken and Mrs Cynthia Jacobs vice chairmen; Mrs Linda Isaacs and Mrs Sylvia Sheff honorary secretaries; and Mr Jonathan Arkush, Mr Harvey Bratt, Mr Lionel Manuel and Mrs Maureen Rigal.

Anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS Thomas Malthus, political economist Guildford, Surrey 1766.
DEATHS Richard II, reigned 1377-1399, Pontefract, Yorkshire. 1400 Captain James Cook, murdered by natives, Hawaii, 1779. William Dyce, painter London 1864. William Sherman, Union general in the American Civil War, New York, 1891. Sir Pelham (P.G.) Woodhouse, New York 1973.
Today is the Festival of Saint Valentine. There were two saints of this name and both were married circa 270. Neither has any connection with the custom of sending gifts, emblems, messages etc on this day.
TOMORROW BIRTHS Pedro de Alvarado, navigator, Spain 1519; Galileo Galilei, Pisa, 1564; Jeremy Bentham, Utilitarian philosopher, London, 1748; Henry Hunt, politician, Alresford, Hampshire 1835; Alfred North Whitehead, philosopher and mathematician, Ramsgate 1861; Sir Ernest Shackleton, Antarctic explorer, Kilkee, Ireland 1874.
DEATHS Jan Swammerdam, entomologist, Amsterdam, 1680; Mikhail Glinka, composer, Berlin 1857; Nicholas Wiseman, cardinal-archbishop of Westminster 1850-63; London 1865; Aleksandr Borodin, composer, Leningrad, 1887; Herbert Henry Asquith, first earl of Oxford and Asquith, Prime Minister 1908-16; Sutton Courtine, Berkshire 1928.

Dinner

Fletcher's Company
The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the ladies dinner of the Fletcher's Company held at Stationers' Hall last night. Mr B.J. Brown Master presided and the other speakers were the Lord Mayor, Mr Alderman Francis McWilliams and Mr A.N. Taylor Upper Warden.

Service Dinner

RAF Staff College Bracknell
Air Commodore R.H. Wood, Deputy Commandant and officers of the RAF Staff College Bracknell held a ladies guest night yesterday evening to welcome Air Vice-Marshal D.T. Bryant, the new Commandant, and Mrs Bryant. Wing Commander A.E. Neal presided.

Martyrs' seed for the Church

John Witheridge

Monday sees the tenth anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Janani Luwum of Uganda. Luwum had done all in his power to protect against one of history's most demonic dictators and barbaric regimes. On orders from Amin he was harassed, arrested, humiliated, and submitted to a gruelling show trial on trumped up charges. The next morning newspapers reported the Archbishop's death in a motor accident. Those who saw the body say he was shot.

The trauma of an archbishop's murder was not lost even on a people numbered by six years of tyranny. Hundreds of thousands had been killed, imprisoned or deported. When I accompanied the Archbishop of Canterbury to Uganda we were shown the point where Lake Victoria had become dammed by a vast wall of rotting corpses.

Janani Luwum stands in a succession of martyrs which began nearly a century before with the arrival in Uganda of the first Christian mission. The Kabaka (King) took draconian steps to prevent the spread of a faith which might threaten his kingdom. James Hannington was spared to death in 1885 as he made his hazardous journey to Uganda to become the first Anglican bishop. A year later three newly converted page boys in the Kabaka's service were dismembered before being roasted alive.

The most celebrated of all victims of this fierce persecution are the martyrs of Ntungwe, more than 30 young courtiers who were burnt in a single pyre after they had been found reading from scriptures. Roman Catholics and Anglicans perished together.

Despite the Kabaka's determination to stamp out the Christian faith the very opposite occurred. The meteoric growth of the Church in Uganda makes a remarkable tale. A decade after the martyrdom of Janani Luwum there were 7,000 baptised members and 50,000 enquirers. Here was a Church established and inspired by martyrdom. "The blood of the martyrs," wrote Tertullian, "is seed for the church; the more we are mown down, the more we multiply."

The same Easter phenomenon is to be found in Uganda today. For all the sufferings they have endured under Amin and Obote, Christians are still numerous, vigorous and determined. The sacrilegious slaughter of Luwum was felt far beyond the borders of Uganda. The Dean and Chapter of Canterbury decided immediately to dedicate a chapel in the Cathedral to the Saints and Martyrs of Our Own Time.

Here are recorded the names and memories of a handful of countless men and women of every nation and denomination who have sacrificed their lives for their faith: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Maximilian Kolbe, Martin Luther King, Maria Skobtsova, Oscar Romero, Janani Luwum.

The Chapel is situated at the furthest point of the Cathedral in the Corona, built to house the relic of Becket's scalp, so here the noble army of martyrs past and present are brought together. Archbishop Thomas of Canterbury is linked to Archbishop Janani of Uganda, both were victims of the interminable and often violent clash between Church and State, God and Caesar.

Like that of Luwum, the martyrdom of Becket 800 years before gave birth to

marvellous powers of renewal. Almost immediately pilgrims flocked to Canterbury from far and wide to pray and be healed at the martyr's tomb. From the ashes of a saint's suffering has arisen again and again the fair phoenix of a faith rekindled and revived.

Martyr means "witness" and it is Christ's crucifixion that the martyr testifies. This is the heart of the matter. The sacrifice of martyrdom is the most literal imitation of Christ. It is to accompany Christ to his journey's end.

But to share in that death is to share too in the mystery of his resurrection. The extraordinary and marvellous fruits of martyrdom—the deepening and expanding of faith and devotion, the victory of love and forgiveness over evil, brutality and death—are vital signs of the power and wonder of Easter.

Indeed it is this very experience of the life-giving power of martyrdom which witnesses to the truth of the central Christian claim that Jesus rose from the dead. The effects of the martyr's death "give the Easter story a profound credibility both in itself and as the release and sharing of a new healing and liberating power in the world" (Church of England Bishops' Statement on The Nature of Christian Belief, 1986).

So, as T.S. Eliot's Becket preaches on Christmas morning: "A martyrdom is always the design of God. For his love of men, to warn them and to lead them, to bring them back to his way. For the reflections raise the way of opportunity, (and courage) for martyrdom lies close to the heart of the Church's malaise in our time and place."

The author is Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Sale room

Spirited pursuit of hunt scene

A sale of mainly late Victorian pictures at Christie's yesterday made a total of £469,766, with 7 per cent falling to find buyers. There was some strong private bidding and, less usually, a significant American presence.

The most expensive work was "The Branded Foot" by Haywood Hardy, one of the best horse painters of the period. It showed two huntsmen ministering to an injured hound, and went to a private buyer at £22,000 (estimate £10,000-£15,000). A second Hardy work, showing the end to a day with the Devon Hounds in 1910, went to the Devon dealer for £10,450 (estimate £4,000-£6,000).

A New York dealer paid £17,600 for the sugar "Off To School" of 1883 by Charles Burton Barber (estimate £8,000-£12,000). Barber's estate, including several belonging to the Royal Family. Here his subject was a St Bernard dog escorting his young mistress.

Another American dealer paid £7,700 for a neo-classical subject by George Edward Robertson (estimate £3,000-£5,000). In comparative terms the £15,400 paid by a London dealer for "Buying Fish", a coastal subject dated 1826 by William Collins, RA, might seem rather cheap, despite an estimate from £6,000 to £10,000. The painting had been sold at Christie's in 1963 for £1,170 guineas.

Two characteristic products of the Victorian genius sold well at £12,100 each. One was a large canvas illustrating a tournament scene from Scott's *Ivanhoe*, by Frank William Warwick Topham, (estimate £7,000-£10,000), and the other a pleasing if slightly primitive view of the Albert Memorial dated 1877 by the obscure Edwin Frederick Holt, (estimate £3,000-£5,000).

Mr T.J. Barker and **Miss Z.D. Deterding**
The engagement is announced between Trevor, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John N. Barker of Regent, Surrey, and Zoe, daughter of Mr Richard Deterding of Radlett, and of Mrs Gilda Deterding, of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Mr R.D.A. Berland and **Miss L.H. Fleming**
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs David Berland of Ripley, Surrey, and Lucilla, second daughter of Mr John Fleming of Runcorn, West Sussex, and Mrs Paul Summs of Midhurst, West Sussex.

Mr K. Chatterjee and **Miss F.M.P. Smith**
The engagement is announced between Kishor, eldest son of Dr and Mrs K. Chatterjee of the late Dr Patrick Hume-Kendall and of Mrs Jill Rawlings, of Fordcombe, Kent, and Louise, daughter of Mr Peter Agg and the late Mrs Edna Agg of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Mr R.W. Hampson and **Miss G. B. Lamb**
The engagement is announced between Robert, youngest son of Mr and Mrs R.W. Hampson of West Sussex, and Louise, youngest daughter of Mr R.W. Sanders of Brisbane, Australia.

Mr R.B.S. Dodd and **Miss V.A. Finch**
The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Mr and Mrs P.B. Dodd of Bend, Cal. and Virginia, youngest daughter of Mr J. Pugh of Ransard Cottage, Elean-Ross, Shropshire.

Mr R.L.E. Douglas-Bate and **Miss J.R. Duffin**
The engagement is announced between Robert, only son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Douglas-Bate of Stone, Buckinghamshire, and Janet, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Roland Raiffe Duffin of Weymouth, Dorset.

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Mr T.R. Price and **Miss A.P. Ashkar**
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Mr G.C. Hand and **Miss Z.D. Deterding**
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Mr M.S. Risk and **Miss T.L. Conti**
The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Professor and Mrs J.M.S. Risk of Follis, Jacksonville, and Theresa, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Conti, of Daly City, California.

Mr N.J.A. Robb and **Miss B.J. Hunt**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest son of Mr and Mrs A.D. Robb, of Fordingham, Hampshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr H.W. Hunt and the late Mrs Hunt, of Warwick, Queensland, Australia.

Mr C.P.W. Robson and **Miss K.J. Forrest**
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs William Robson, of Midhurst, Sussex, and Katharine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Forrest, of Cockfield, Suffolk.

Mr J.P.N. Rule and **Miss C.M. Dowling**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of the late Mr John Rule and Mrs Lotie Rule, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Cecilia, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.P. Rule, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Mr N.J. Way and **Miss S.A. Clark**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas John, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.F. Way, of Solihull, West Midlands, and Susan Ann, only daughter of Mr and Mrs F.R. Clark, also of Solihull.

Mr P.D. Whitely and **Miss C.C. Andland**
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs T.J. Whitely, of Colham, Surrey, and Charlotte, only daughter of Mr and Mrs G.M. Andland, of Reading.

Mr N.T. Wright and **Miss M.L. Favre**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest son of Mr and Mrs T.J. Wright, of West Byfleet, Surrey, and Marlene Isabelle, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Favre, of Meiner, Geneva.

Mr M. Macdonald and **Miss F.S. Davies**
The engagement is announced between Muriel, eldest son of Mr and Mrs K. Macdonald, of 5, York Road, London, and Susan, daughter of Professor and Mrs R. Davies, of Eaton, Northwich.

OBITUARY

MR BAYNHAM HONRI

Niche in the early history of talking pictures

Baynham Honri who died on February 10, at the age of 83, was one of the pioneer technicians of the sound film in Britain.

He was associated with the first experiments in sound feature film making, mainly at the old Twickenham Studios, where he supervised the recording of countless feature films in the 1920s.

He was born, Percy Baynham Henry Thompson, on October 28, 1903, the son of a music hall star. Percy Honri. The family name was changed by deed poll to Honri, in 1929.

As a boy, he cycled regularly round every film studio he knew, recording in meticulous detail their size, details of their equipment, and lighting.

This research was later used in the definitive history of the British film industry from 1896 to 1930, edited by Rachael Low.

As a result of this early enthusiasm for films (he was only ten at the time) he managed to gain entry into a number of studios and, in time, they began to assume he was on the staff. Soon he became involved in early sound experiments first, in radio and then in the cinema.

He was a camera assistant with Stoll films, when they entered silent films in 1921, and later went to New York.

Subsequently he joined the new British Broadcasting Company in its research department. He was involved in setting up relay stations from Savoy Hill.

Railways were another of his childhood passions, and it was natural that he played a prominent part in the celebrated BBC broadcast from the Flying Scotsman.

In the 1930s he was head of sound at Twickenham Studios. Among his achievements at this period were the music hall film, *Say It With Music*. His brilliant sound editing in the 1936 film, *The Last Journey*, recorded on relatively primitive equipment, is also a milestone, and has been studied by such a

contemporary director as David Lean.

During the war Baynham Honri was employed on creating decoy airfields, to trick German bombers into attacking open countryside. To the same end he produced dummy flares, displays of pyrotechnics which encouraged enemy raiders to think they had set a city alight.

His most successful was one in Poole harbour, Portland Harbour, Southampton and Portsmouth many a ton of bombs.

After the war he worked with John Baxter, directing his only film, *Bank Holiday Luck*. He then joined Michael Balcon's Ealing Studios, and was technical chief on such films as *The Cruel Sea*.

In 1959 he became the technical designer of Derry's Cross studios, for Westward Television in Plymouth. After this he increasingly went into consultancy, where he was always innovative in trying to encourage studios to update their techniques.

In later years he was an indefatigable worker on behalf of the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Society and took part in many fund-raising activities. He also edited a journal for the Cinema Veterans and helped to organise a number of their major annual events.

He was closely involved in the early life of the National Film School and the British Film Institute.

A figure who spans the technical development of the cinema from early silent days to major developments in sound, Baynham Honri will always have a rather special place in the history of British movies.

He had a strong sense of humour which could always enliven any British Cinematograph Society meeting which threatened tedium. But he was always accessible to any young enthusiast who wanted to pick his brains.

His wife, Dorothy, died in 1983. He leaves a son and daughter.

GROUP CAPT PERS KELLY

Group Captain Piers Kelly, DFC, who died on February 11, aged 71, flew with the legendary No. 74 "Tiger" Squadron during the Battle of Britain.

He was born on August 4, 1915, and went to Cranwell, Lincolnshire, where he was posted to France as a pilot with Army Cooperation Command.

His transfer to fighters was unorthodox. In June 1940, with the German forces rapidly advancing through the northern France, he was on a reconnaissance mission and discovered 12 Hurricane aircraft without pilots at Angers.

Though he had only flown a Hurricane once before, he flew back to Nantes in one of these, returning the same afternoon with pilots from No 1 Squadron to collect the remaining fighters.

For the next 10 days he managed to attach himself to No 1 Squadron until their withdrawal from France. Returning to England, he

converted onto Spitfires and was posted to No 74 Squadron based in Horchurch. Soon after was made one of the flight commanders under "Sailor" Malan.

Within two weeks he was credited with this first enemy aircraft destroyed, an ME 109.

He later had a spell on flying instruction duties, after which he went to night fighters where he was given command of No 355 Squadron flying Beaufighters.

In 1942 the squadron was sent to North Africa to support the American landings. In these operations he destroyed two JU 88s, and was awarded the DFC.

He served on the Allied Control Commission to Finland from 1946 to 1947. He was later Staff Officer at SHAPE in Paris.

After retirement from the RAF he served with Western European Union in Paris and returned to England in 1968.

Kelly is survived by his wife, Pamela, and two children.

MR WILLIAM ROSE

William Rose, who died at his home in Jersey, on February 10, aged 67, was an American-born screenwriter who contributed to some well-known British films.

Rose was born in Jefferson City, Missouri, and educated at Columbia University, New York.

He had developed a keen sympathy for European affairs and when the Soviet Union invaded Finland, in 1939, he joined the Finnish army and took part in its valiant struggle against overwhelmingly superior forces.

He could not wait for his own country to enter the war on the Allied side and, after the fall of Finland, joined the Canadian Army, saying he was going to the rescue of the civilization that had produced Shakespeare.

He was involved in some of its toughest assignments, including the debacle of the Dieppe raid. Though he at first refused a commission he finished the war as a lieutenant-colonel.

After the war he stayed in Britain, and joined Ealing studios. One of his earliest

assignments was *Once a Jolly Swagman* (1948), a speedway drama which he co-wrote with Jack Lee, its director.

Rose had developed a keen eye and ear for English eccentricities, and this bore fruit in *Genevieve* (1953). His witty and charming script combined with a light directing touch, and the acting of Kenneth More, John Gregson, Finlay Currie, and Joyce Grenfell, to make it one of the most stylish British film comedies.

Another success was *The Ladykillers* (1955), with Alec Guinness, leading a gang of robbers.

In Hollywood, Rose wrote *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*, and the highly-acclaimed *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, which puffed at the time, seems in retrospect a schmalzy and dishonest treatment of racial bigotry in American society.

An Anglophile, cricket-lover and raconteur, Rose settled in Jersey, where he lived quietly.

Married and divorced twice, he leaves a son and a daughter.

ROSENTHAL

led him to a career in entertainment.

He remained in Germany after the war, and became a journalist with Berlin radio. He was best known for the popular television quiz show, *Dalli-Dalli*, which had twenty million viewers in German-speaking Europe.

Rosenthal occupied a unique position as a bridge-builder between Jews and Christians in post-war Germany, broadcasting and by death has been mourned as a national loss.

He is survived by his Christian wife, Edeltraut, and by a son and daughter, both of whom were brought up in the Jewish faith.

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NON-SMOKERS ONLY

NO OBLIGATION

Services: Ninth Sunday before Easter

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL 8.30

10.15 Benedicite (Cathedral in the City)

11.30 Morning Prayer (Cathedral in the City)

12.30 Lunch (Cathedral in the City)

1.30 Evensong (Cathedral in the City)

2.30 Evensong (Cathedral in the City)

3.30 Evensong (Cathedral in the City)

4.30 Evensong (Cathedral in the City)

5.30 Evensong (Cathedral in the City)

6.30 Evensong (Cathedral in the City)

7.

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1521.0 (+20.0)

FT-SE 100
1896.1 (+19.5)

Bargains
41120 (44204)

USM (Datastream)
145.18 (+0.41)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5215 (+0.0020)

W German mark
2.7821 (+0.0045)

Trade-weighted
68.8 (+0.1)

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1.5215 (+0.0020)

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2.7821 (+0.0045)

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US-style funding of official debt

Bank to hold gilts auctions

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England plans to hold the first of a series of auctions for gilt-edged stocks in April or May. Between £1 billion and £1.5 billion of stock will be offered.

The spring auction, the first of a series planned by the Bank, is part of an experiment in American-style funding of government debt.

The proposals, issued yesterday by Mr Eddie George, the Bank's executive director with responsibility for home finance, are intended to give "backbone" to the funding programme.

Conjunction will be used in conjunction with the present tap arrangements and there is no intention at this stage to switch completely to an auction system.

Initially, about a third of annual sales by the authorities of conventional gilts will be offered by auction, possibly rising to a half in time.

The first of the auctions will be for short-dated stock of up to seven years' maturity. Two further sales, of long-dated (over 15 years to maturity) and medium-dated (7 to 15 years) stock are likely to be scheduled for later in the financial year. Each auction will be for £1 billion to £1.5 billion of stock.

In each case, the Bank will warn the market of the impending auction some time in advance and restrict itself from issuing that type of stock

around the period of the auction.

This "fallow" period would extend from the time of the announcement of the auction until 28 days after it. And there will be the implication, the Bank said, that funding in the auctioned stock will resume immediately at the end of the fallow period.

Bank officials conceded that this would limit the Bank's flexibility in selling gilt-edged stock. But the advantage to the authorities would come in greater market liquidity which should help reduce funding costs.

The auction system, made possible by the move to a system of multiple market-makers, would also help the authorities if there was a return to the type of funding "pause" seen during the 1970s.

By implication, the auction system would be useful to the Bank if a new government came in and borrowed much more heavily than the present regime.

All 27 market-makers will be expected to participate "actively" in the auctions on a regular basis. If auctions become a regular feature of the funding programme, the willingness of primary dealers to take part in them is likely to be a condition for continuing as market-makers.

The Bank made it clear yesterday that it would frown

upon any market-maker submitting auction bids at prices well below market levels. No minimum price is to be set for the stock auctioned, although the Bank would retain the right not to allot all stock "in exceptional circumstances".

Having signalled its intention to move towards gilt auctions last year, the Bank is allowing only a short consultation period on the experimental exercise.

Gilt market-makers and investing institutions have until March 6 to respond to the latest detailed proposals. Among issues still to be decided are whether stock will be allocated on a common price basis - with all bidders obtaining stock at the lowest accepted price - or on a bid price basis, where each bidder pays the price at which they bid.

In either case, special arrangements will be operated for smaller bids of up to £100,000, in which stock will be allocated on a common price basis. Whether trading in advance of auctions, on a "when issued" basis, will be allowed, is a matter for negotiation in the coming weeks.

● The Bank of England yesterday announced the sale by tender of £400 million of Treasury 2 per cent indexed stock 1992.

Inflation rate up to 3.9%

By Our Economics Correspondent

The rate of inflation increased to 3.9 per cent last month, from 3.7 per cent in December and some City forecasters expect it to touch 6 per cent by the summer.

The retail price index, the last to be produced on the present January 1974 base, stood at 394.5 last month, up by 0.4 per cent from its level of 393.0 in December.

The severe January weather produced higher seasonal food prices, fresh vegetables increased by an average of 13 per cent. There were higher prices also for beer and wine, milk - up 1p a pint - heating oil and petrol.

The average price of four-star petrol rose by 2.6p to 170.1p a gallon last month. A further increase is likely to show through in the February

index, with petrol in many areas currently around 175-176p a gallon.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Paymaster General, said that the rise in the inflation rate was largely attributable to January's bad weather, adding that: "There is no room for complacency. Controlling inflation remains a priority."

But Mr Ian Wigglesworth, the Alliance spokesman on trade and industry, said: "The figures show how bogus is the Government's claim to have prices under control. They are hoping to have the election over before the spending bubble bursts and pay pressure gets worse."

City economists expect the rate of inflation to reach about 6 per cent by the summer unless the Chancellor can

engineer a cut in mortgage rates. A detailed analysis by Morgan Grenfell suggests that inflation will rise above 5 per cent by May and reach 5.9 per cent by July and August.

On this analysis, inflation will average more than 5 per cent in the fourth quarter of the year, above the Chancellor's forecast of a 3.75 per cent rate.

The 1 per cent rise in industry's raw material and fuel costs, announced earlier in the week, together with signs of some acceleration in the growth of average earnings, has produced a gloomier outlook for inflation.

The underlying rise in average earnings, having been stuck at 7.5 per cent for two years, accelerated to 7.75 per cent in November and Dec-

ember under the impact of higher bonus payments, according to figures published on Thursday.

Changes are taken place for the retail price index when the February figures are published in a month. The new base date will be January 1987, taking the great inflation of the 1970s and early 1980s out of the index and into the history books.

Rent and rates will in future be included in the index as gross payments and some additional prices will go into the index.

However, the statisticians are not yet ready to include new car prices, financial services or holiday expenditure in the index, although it is hoped to do this in 1988.

Roux bows to inevitable and resigns from Bain

By Lawrence Lever

Mr Olivier Roux, the former finance director of Guinness, yesterday announced his resignation from Bain & Co, severing the Boston-based management consultancy's final link with the key characters involved in the takeover of Distillers.

Mr Roux has been negotiating terms for his resignation from Bain over the past few days. His high profile in the Guinness investigation made inevitable his resignation from Bain's highly secretive and confidential management consultancy.

Last month Bain cut its link with Sir Jack Lyons whom it employed as a British adviser. Sir Jack, has since admitted receiving fees of more than £2 million from Guinness for "valuable services" advisory during the takeover of Distillers.

In his letter of resignation, published yesterday, Mr Roux says: "It is clear to me that there is no sufficient role for me at this time within the company."

Last Friday he met Mr Bill Bain, the founder of the consultancy, at Claridge's. Mr Bain flew into London in a personal bid to retain his firm's highly valuable business with Guinness and to clarify Mr Roux's position within Bain.

Mr Roux is believed to have received compensation as part of the terms of his resignation from Bain.

In his letter of resignation, written from his home address to Mr Ralph Willard at Bain, he says that although his "duties at Guinness have ended, I understand that given the uncertainties of the DTI inquiry, it is not at present feasible for Bain United Kingdom Inc. to employ me in consulting assignments in the UK at my current level of seniority."

Mr Roux's letter appears to imply that he sought out the possibility of working on accounts abroad and that this



Roux: high-profile role amid secretive firm

was also ruled out by Bain.

Mr Roux, who is 36, has worked for Bain for more than years but was on full time secondment to Guinness when he resigned as finance director. He authorized the controversial £7.6 million payment from Guinness to Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank, generating allegations that Guinness had illegally bought its own shares.

He was also named in Sir Norman Macfarlane's first letter to Guinness shareholders as signing a potentially illegal indemnity deal with Bank Leu. Mr Roux maintains that the deal was signed after the Guinness bid for Distillers went through.

The Guinness board accepted his resignation as finance director last month "with regret."

Extel up while Maxwell hovers

By Cliff Feltham

Extel, the news information group, expects the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to launch a full investigation if Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, makes a takeover bid for the company.

Mr Maxwell built up a stake of 24.7 per cent in Extel while it fought off a hostile £170 million bid from the Demerger Corporation last year.

He was therefore considered to have been acting in concert and cannot enter the fray again until the end of April.

But because of the potential merger situation which existed, the Office of Fair Trading has looked into the affair and it was announced yesterday that it had been decided to refer it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Alan Brooker, the Extel chairman, said he believed the decision did not prejudice the view which might be taken if an offer was made for the company by Pergamon Holding Foundation (Liechtenstein), the Maxwell-related company now holding the stake.

He said: "There are some important public issues which would need to be examined if Mr Maxwell decided to bid, such as whether a newspaper proprietor should control an independent news agency."

On the stock market the Extel shares leapt 30p to 430p as some market operators sensed that more bid action was not far off.

Many observers in the City expect Mr Maxwell to mount an attempt to acquire Extel which has been refining its business since it escaped from the publisher's clutches last year.

Mr Maxwell recently voted against Extel's proposals to buy an American financial publishing business but failed to block the move.

BA share letters expected mid-week

By Our City Staff

The 1.1 million new shareholders in British Airways are likely to have to wait until next Wednesday before taking the decision to sell their shares and cash in on a handsome profit.

The letters of allotment confirming ownership "are being prepared in a big round-the-clock operation over this weekend ready for posting on Monday."

This means that the small shareholders should be in a position to decide whether to sell their shares or hold them by first post on Wednesday.

Lloyds Bank, which is responsible for handling most of the applications from its offices in Worthing, has had up to 400 staff working on the operation.

Meanwhile, the accountant Peat Marwick has uncovered 1,650 suspected multiple applications.

The investigation into applications is likely to continue until April.

A spokesman said: "We have been continually improving the techniques for detecting these applications which are now starting to show a downward trend."

The 65p partly-paid shares, which shot up to 119p when dealings started this week, closed at 108p, down 2 1/2p yesterday.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

Clarion plan

Clarion, Japan's biggest car audio equipment maker, has announced plans to build a manufacturing plant in Britain although the company declined to comment on the location of the sites under review. A decision is expected within months.

IC Gas to become two companies

By Carol Ferguson

The Imperial Continental Gas Association yesterday announced plans for breaking itself up into two separately quoted companies, Calor Group and Contibel Holdings.

At the same time it revealed its profits forecast for the year to March 31.

Shareholders in IC Gas will receive one share in each of the new companies for each IC Gas share.

Calor Group, which will include IC Gas's oil operations in Century Power and Light, is forecast to make £69.8 million pretax, 30.3p a share.

Contibel Holdings is forecast to make £27.2 million pretax, 13.2p a share. IC Gas has valued Contibel Holdings's assets, mainly Belgian energy companies, at £484 million, 339p a share.

Contibel's main asset is a 7.22 per cent holding in Petrofina, Belgium's largest oil company, worth more than £200 million. It has about £140 million invested in three Bel-

gian companies involved in producing electricity, and distributing electricity and gas, and more than £100 million invested in two unquoted gas distribution companies in Belgium. The balance is a property group, short-term investments and cash.

Pretax profits for the whole group for the year to March are forecast to rise by just £1.6 million to £95.2 million.

In view of the timing of the reconstruction so near to the year end, IC Gas is to declare a second interim dividend of 12p for this year. The total dividend for the year will be 20p net compared with 16.75p net last year.

The reconstruction was prompted by an unwelcome bid from Gulf Resources, who planned to dismember the group. Gulf withdrew its offer when the bid was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Temps, page 19

Officials wonder: where will it end?

The night they raided Wall St

From Bailey Morris Washington

After the dramatic arrests of three high-level securities officials on Thursday, the question on everyone's lips, even at the highest levels of Wall Street, was: "who is next?"

As one suspect was led off in handcuffs and two others were arrested in surprise visits, officials said what once appeared to be an investigation of the activities of Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced arbitrator, was now much broader.

Mr Richard Wigton, the 52-year-old vice-president and senior arbitrator at Kidder Peabody, was pushed up against a wall, frisked and handcuffed as stunned traders looked on. Dressed in a conservative, pinstriped suit, he was led away in tears.

Just one block away, Mr Robert Freeman, the man who traded millions of dollars a day as a partner and chief arbitrator at Goldman Sachs, was surprised in his 29th-floor office by three officers. After a few brief words, "they led him away quietly," said a secretary.

The arrest of Mr Timothy Tabor, a relative newcomer to the higher echelons of Wall Street, occurred the night before at his East Side Manhattan apartment.

The Street braced itself for additional arrests and prosecutions after Mr Martin Siegel, co-director of mergers and acquisitions at Drexel Burnham Lambert, was charged yesterday by the Securities and Exchange Commission with taking part in the Ivan Boesky insider trading scandal as early as August 1982.

In a civil complaint filed in the US District Court in New York, the SEC charged Mr Siegel with aiding Mr Boesky by feeding him inside information on non-public news. Mr Siegel agreed to an out-of-court settlement of the



Boesky: ever-widening circles

civil charges against him by paying \$4.2 million and giving up his financial interest in Drexel as well as leaving the securities business for life and co-operating with the government's continuing probe into insider trading on Wall Street, the SEC said.

Mr Siegel did not admit or deny the charges, but consented to a court order barring him from further violations of federal securities laws.

The new charge indicates Mr Boesky had been using inside information in his multi-million dollar risk arbitrage deals long before his illegal involvement with inside trader Mr Denis Levine, also a former Drexel official, began in February 1985.

When the SEC charged Mr Boesky, last November, it claimed he had used inside information he had been buying from Mr Levine since February 1985 to reap \$30 million on share deals since then.

The SEC's charge that Mr Siegel had been providing Mr Boesky with information since 1982 suggests that Mr Boesky's illegal profits may have been much higher than \$50 million.

Beginning in August 1982, Mr Boesky agreed to pay Mr Siegel for inside information, just as he did with Mr Levine in 1985, the SEC said.

For the two counts brought

by the US Attorney, Mr Siegel faces a maximum 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. During yesterday's hearing, Mr Siegel, aged 38, said he passed non-public information between Goldman Sachs and Kidder Peab

BUSINESS SUMMARY

Big demand for £51m Euroyen issue by 3i

Investors in Industry (3i) yesterday made its first foray into the Euroyen market with the issue of a £51m (¥51.5 million) bond, only the third conventional Euroyen issue by a British company. Investors in Industry has launched 17 issues since 1977 in sterling, dollars, ECUs and Swiss francs. The proceeds of the Euroyen issue will be swapped to give 3i dollar floating rate funds.

A yen issue was chosen because recent yen strength has led to expectations that rates will fall. Demand from the Europeans for the issue was strong and the Japanese are expected to be keen buyers today. The issue is lead-managed by IBI International and SG Warburg Securities. The notes will have a six-year maturity and pay interest annually at 5 per cent. The issue price is 101.5 per cent.

Pan Am loss to top \$400m

New York (AP-Dow Jones) — Pan Am Corp will report a fourth-quarter loss of more than \$135 million (\$89 million), lifting total 1986 losses above \$400 million, but this year should be profitable as passengers seem less worried about terrorism, Mr Edward Acker, chairman and chief executive (left) said. In the first nine months of last year, Pan Am's parent lost \$265 million.



African loans hope

The president of the World Bank, Mr Barber Conable, said yesterday that he hoped the Bank would soon be able to assist African countries with more easy-term concessional loans from the International Development Association (IDA). This would be possible as a result of a \$12.5 billion (\$8.22 billion) replenishment to IDA's resources allocated recently with some donor nations, he said as he left Nairobi for Zambia. About \$3 billion (\$1.97 billion) would be in concessional lending.

He said the World Bank would try also to encourage the kind of economic adjustment that would attract direct private investment and the transfer of skills that could lead to an improved quality of life for people on the continent.

Sherwood buys CTG

Sherwood Computer Services, the Romford-based computer bureau and software development company, is paying £2.8 million for Corporate Technology Group, which supplies software to local authorities. CTG reported pretax profits last year of £60,000. Sherwood estimates that its profits for the year just ended were £95,000.

Block sought on shell firms

Securities officials in Hong Kong want a clampdown on the use of shell companies as a way of obtaining a backdoor listing on the stock market. Mr Ray Astin, the Securities Commissioner, expressed anxiety yesterday about the growing trend for companies to use shell listings as a way of entering the stock market — a route used by 10 companies last year.

OECD inflation falls

Paris (AP-Dow Jones) — Consumer prices in the 24 member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development rose by an average of only 0.2 per cent in December, the same rate as November. The average increase for the whole of 1986 was 2.8 per cent, compared with 4.5 per cent in 1985. Last year's rise was the smallest annual inflation rate since 1964, when consumer prices rose by 2.4 per cent.

Sixteen OECD countries had inflation rates of less than 5 per cent last year compared with only 10 countries in 1985. For the year as a whole, the price performance of Japan, Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland and Luxembourg was broadly stable. The OECD attributed the decline in inflation last year to lower energy prices.

Retail sector heads price rise league

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

Strong demand for village stores and specialist shops has produced the annual review of business prices, said: "With a post office you buy a place in the community and a regular income. It appeals to ex-bankers and people from the forces who like the status."

Similarly, village stores and corner shops are popular with people moving out of the South-East and wanting a way of life outside the cities.

Restaurants remained good performers with a 15.8 per cent increase to take the average price to almost £69,000. Sub post offices remained the most popular businesses and prices gained about 16 per cent taking them to an average of £76,000.

Mr John Howard, manag-

ing director of Christie & Co, the business agent and valuer which produces the annual review of business prices, said: "With a post office you buy a place in the community and a regular income. It appeals to ex-bankers and people from the forces who like the status."

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Mr John Howard, manag-

Airbus rolls out challenge to US

Europe's latest challenger to America's aeroplane-making giants will be rolled out of the hangar today.

The world premiere of the twin-engine 150-seater Airbus 320 is the latest stage in the intense battle between Airbus Industrie, the European plane-making consortium in which Britain has a 20 per cent stake, and its American rivals Boeing and McDonnell Douglas for a share of the market in new aircraft to replace existing airline fleets.

The roll-out ceremony at Toulouse, France, will be attended by the Prince and Princess of Wales and a host of European VIPs. The Royal couple will fly to Toulouse from Oporto at the end of their four-day visit to Portugal. Airbus is keeping details of the roll-out ceremony secret.

British Caledonian Airways and Air France were the first to order the new jetliner. The A320, due to make its maiden flight in a few weeks' time, is the first of a new wave of technologically-advanced aircraft.

Development has cost £1.1 billion and each plane will sell for about £21,300,000. Airbus already has 261 firm orders, 150 options and 20 commitments for the aircraft worth at least £9.3 billion.

The wings are made at nine British Aerospace factories throughout Britain, and flown from BAe's plant in Filton, Bristol to Toulouse for final assembly.

After the celebrations, the Prince and Princess of Wales will fly home to prepare for a Swiss ski-ing holiday with the Duke and Duchess of York next week.



Royal lift-off: the Airbus 320, which makes its debut at Toulouse today before the Prince and Princess of Wales.

WALL STREET

Dow slips in early trading

New York (Agencies) — Wall Street shares were mixed in early trading yesterday as a decline in Texas after Thursday's Texas court ruling pushed the stock down sharply and hurt blue chips. The latest insider trading scandal continued to create nervousness in the market.

The Dow Jones industrial average declined 8.44 to 2,157.34 at one stage when the transport indicator was down 2.42 to 908.43 and the utilities average down 1.21 to 217.93. The 65 stocks average was 3.13 lower at \$26.96.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500-share index lost 0.49 to 275.13 while the New York Stock Exchange composite index fell 0.23 to 157.35.

Texas led the active shares with a decline of 4% to 33%. Peaseco gained 12% to 83%.

Precious metal futures were higher in early trade yesterday although April gold hovered around the key \$400 technical support level.

Dealers said slightly higher oil prices March crude oil futures at the New York Mercantile Exchange were nine cents higher at \$18.07 a barrel and a modest firming in the dollar helped boost metal prices.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	3 months	6 months
February 13	February 13	1 month	1 month
N York 1.5140-1.5220	0.5210-1.5220	0.5210-1.5220	1.5140-1.5220
London 1.5140-1.5220	0.5210-1.5220	0.5210-1.5220	1.5140-1.5220
Amsterd 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Frankfurt 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Paris 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Brussels 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Geneva 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Basel 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Madrid 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Barcelona 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Valencia 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Seville 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Bilbao 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Zaragoza 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Palma 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Mallorca 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Ibiza 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Formentera 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Menorca 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Majorca 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Porto 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Lisbon 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Coimbra 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Aveiro 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Vila Real 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Bragança 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Castellón 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Teruel 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Huesca 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Barceloneta 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
San Sebastián 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Pamplona 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
León 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Valladolid 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
Burgos 1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114	1.3108-1.3114
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STOCK MARKET

Hectic trading adds £140m to Trusthouse Forte value

By Michael Clark

Trusthouse Forte, the hotel and leisure group, was the stock market's favourite yesterday as it rounded off an eventful week with a rise of 18p to a new peak of 225p.

About 16 million shares changed hands in hectic trading as more than £140 million was added to the group's stock market value. Part of yesterday's flurry of activity stemmed from manoeuvres on the traded options where Kleinwort Greaveson, the broker, was said to have desperately tried to cover its positions.

Earlier this week Kleinwort published a major survey of the hotel sector listing THF as one of its naps. It also arranged a seminar for leading fund managers to meet some of the companies. But it looks as though even Kleinwort has been caught out by this week's rush for the shares.

The fund managers are said to have been impressed with some of Kleinwort's findings. This combined with some news on the bid front among the hotel groups has led to something of a re-rating for the sector.

Then yesterday THF cheered shareholders with its annual reporting, pointing to continued growth. Newcomer British Airways came in for another bout of profit-taking sliding 2.5p to 106p with turnover also down to a more leisurely pace. The final figure was about 22 million shares. Allotment letters are expected to go out next week to investors and it is likely market-makers will attempt to mark the price lower in order to make the most of the expected rush of small sellers.

The rest of the equity market regained some of its composure following a bullish economic survey from the Bank of England, this confirmed that the Chancellor still has scope for tax cuts in the next Budget.

The FT 30 share index grew in confidence throughout the day finally closing at its highest level 20.0 up at a new high of 1,521.0 as almost £4 billion was added to share values. The broader FT-SE 100 share index came within a whisker of the 1,900 level, finishing 19.5 up at 1,898.1.

The cheerful news on the economic front also encouraged government securities which closed with rises at the longer end of the market ranging to 1/2% despite the new "tax" being given a cool reception by investors earlier this week.

The bid stories have re-

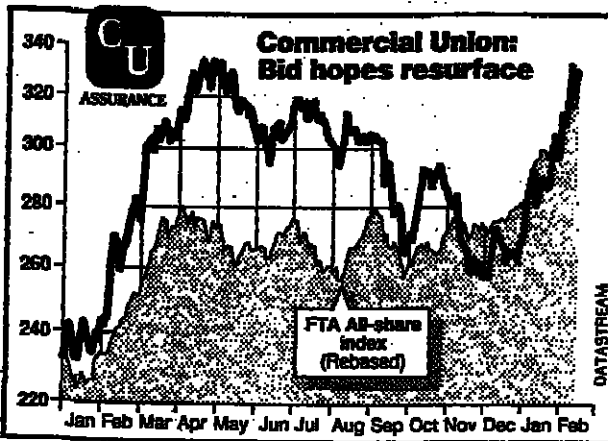
surfaced at one of the market's oldest takeover favourites - Commercial Union. The share price rose 17p to an all-time high of 347p yesterday adding £70 million to the group's stock market value as a further 15 million shares changed hands. That brings the total traded in the past week to 34.5 million shares or 8.5 per cent of the company.

Several names have been put forward as likely suitors including the Australian entrepreneur, Mr Alan Bond, and the Trustee Savings Bank which was floated on the market last September. Dealers have been talking of the presence of a large buyer in the market this week leading to suggestions that someone has been building up a stake in the company.

But dealers are sceptical about the possibility of Mr Bond making a full offer with

Reebok, the sportswear supplier 37 per cent owned by Pentland Industries rose about \$8 to \$36 on Wall Street this week following sparkling figures recently. This is good news for Pentland whose stake is now worth \$456 million. Pentland, up 60p at 612p this week, is valued at \$569 million.

A large proportion of his spare cash already tied up in other ventures. But the TSB could be a different story. It is already sitting on proceeds of about £1 billion from its flotation and is certainly on the lookout for likely bid targets as the next step in its expansion in the financial services sector.



Selective buying in the insurance sector was also good for General Accident up 6p at 623p. Guardian Royal Exchange 9p to 873p, Royal Insurance 9p to 963p, and Sun Alliance 6p to 725p.

The anti-Aids campaign continued to generate support for some of these companies closely involved with it as American and Japanese investors chased stock higher.

London International Group, the conglomerate which owns Durex, advanced 51p to a new peak of 408p, after 430p. The shares have been a firm market over the past few months helped by the expected boom in sales of condoms. This has been suggested as one way of avoiding the disease.

As a result, LIG has now been attracting the attention of overseas investors, including the Japanese. Earlier this week, L. Messel, the broker, was reckoned to have bid 360p for about 300,000 shares on behalf of Japanese clients. They may have been nibbling again yesterday.

Another healthcare company scaling new heights was Wellcome, up 72p at another new peak of 373p. This followed the announcement that the group is considering a provisional price for its anti-Aids drug, Retrovir, of \$185 a bottle. The group has already applied to the US Food and Drug Administration for permission to market the drug in the US.

Wellcome says the cost to patients will vary according to dosage, regimes and local marketing conditions. But Glaxo came in for profit-taking after a firm start, finishing 15p up at £13.43, after £13.42, on turnover of 1.5 million shares.

The ending of the 52-year-old cement cartel continued to provide Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement producer, with renewed impetus. The price closed below its best levels of the day, but was still a net 10p up on the day at 710p as 6.1 million shares changed hands, but other members of the agreement were again losing ground. Rugby Portland Cement slipped 3p to 204p and Rio Tinto-Zinc 4p to 740p.

Oil shares ran into a few cheap buyers following this week's shakeout stemming from fears on Wall Street that the oil price is failing to hold above the \$18 a barrel level on world markets. The price of North Sea Brent crude for March delivery rose just a couple of cents to \$17.47 a barrel and some dealers fear it may drop to \$16, or less before long. There is talk that Opec production quotas may be running at about 300,000 barrels a day above the levels agreed at the last oil ministers' meeting in Geneva.

Among the leaders, BP

Shell, down 4p at £10.86, on turnover of 5.4 million shares following overnight selling on Wall Street. Apparently, Shearson Lehman American Express, the New York investment house, has turned bearish on oil shares.

● **FRANKFURT:** Share prices on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange advanced on a broad front yesterday as the dollar climbed to a level above DM1.8300, brokers said. The Commerzbank index, which was compiled at midday, edged up 5.7 points to 1761.1. In the week, the index was up 21.5 points after having fallen 68.6 points a week earlier.

● **HONG KONG:** Most share prices fell in volatile trading, and some brokers say the market is due for a correction. The Hang Seng index fell 14.23 to close at 2,740.49.

● **TOKYO:** Prices plunged on heavy volume, as profit-taking undermined a firm morning start. The Nikkei Dow Jones index closed down 146.02 at 19,628.87.

NTI shares fell for the first time, closing down 100,000 yen on profit-taking. Traders said sentiment that nt shares have touched a temporary high and last-minute profit-taking in some Aids-related issues, caused the drop in prices. Investors believe the NTT issue will not edge higher, for the moment, without a major push from Japanese securities companies.

● **SYDNEY:** Share closed mixed, as mining issues fell and industrial issues generally remained firm. The All-Ordinaries index edged up one point to 1,575.8. A drop in gold prices on Thursday in New York and weaker international crude oil prices sparked the selloff among mining and exploration shares. Shares of Australia's biggest listed company, Broken Hill Proprietary, rose again on rumours that Mr Robert Holmes a Court's Bell Resources will make a takeover bid, perhaps with Elders IXL.

● **SINGAPORE:** Stocks moved higher in the second half of the day in heavy trading.

COMMENT

Side by side in the gilt-edged market

The Bank of England has always said that there is no conclusive evidence that government debt is better funded through traditional tenders and taps of gilt-edged stock on the one hand, or auctions on the other. So the Bank is going to try to have its cake and eat it by operating both systems at once.

There is some relief among the 27 gilt market-makers that the gilt auction experiment is not starting before April. The British houses were anxious that too early a start would have given the American houses, used to the US Treasury auction system, an unfair advantage. But with several months trading experience, the British market makers are now feeling more confident - particularly since the Americans have shown no sign yet of taking the gilt market by storm.

The Bank's proposals are wisely circumspect. One problem with running a tap and auction system concurrently is the danger of hitting the market with the same stock both ways at much the same time. The Bank, however, has promised not to issue tap stock within a month either side of an auction, which should quieten market-makers' nerves considerably.

The two systems side by side may prove that, as theory suggests, auctions mean cheaper funding. But then again, it may not. The Bank is aware of the old play in the US market of

driving down government bond prices just before an auction. It will be keeping a sharp eye on the good behaviour of the market-makers. But when a market is so dominated by dealers, as is the case in the new style gilt market, it is not always easy to tell what is a purely technical price movement and what is quite genuine.

Other considerations may prove more important than pricing. Under a pure auction system the Bank would lose an element of market control and fine tuning, with no freedom to vary the date and size of gilt sales. But it does give an ability to shift huge amounts of stock easily and fairly.

If the Bank is ever faced with the need to fund a large and growing debt, it would almost certainly turn to auctions. For their part, market-makers tend to like the auction system because of its predictability. "You know what you'll get and when," said a prominent market man.

He added: "Sooner or later with this number of market-makers we'll have to go over to an auction system." The system more easily accommodates many players than the tap method, which was developed in the days when gilt dealers were a rare species.

The Bank is determined to retain the benefits of both methods. But the real experiment is not whether auctions are a success but whether the dual system of taps and auctions can be made to work.

Safeway decision tricky

The Office of Fair Trading, which has had its share of tricky decisions lately, is now facing another - the proposed £665 million purchase of the British Safeway stores by Argill group. Superficially there appears to be little problem. The two operations combine to give no more than 7 or 8 per cent of the British packaged grocery trade. The difficulty lies ironically in Scotland, the home territory of Mr James Gulliver, Argill's chairman and founder. There, according to how the arithmetic is done, the combined market share is close on 25 per cent.

Argill's case will be assisted by the presence in Scotland of some powerful rivals, notably Fine Fare, built up by Gulliver himself in the late 1960's and now part of the Dee Corporation. Fine Fare has around 17 per cent of the canned and packaged grocery market in Scotland. The William Low group has 12 per cent while Asda and Tesco account for perhaps 8 per cent each. Effectively, the OFT will have to weigh against a possible problem in Scotland, the creation of a powerful fifth force operating nationally in the food retailing business. The benefits, in increasing competition for Sainsbury, Tesco, Dee and Asda, could be considerable.

Exactly a year ago, Gulliver was attempting to make Argill the biggest drinks company in the world.

These days, his ambitions are narrowly focused in retailing. That change will be underscored next week when it is probable that Argill will announce the disposals of Barton Brands, the US drinks operation, to an American buyer and George Morton, its British drinks wholesaling business, for a total in the region of £50 million.

Over the past few years Argill has concentrated on corporate bodybuilding. Since Gulliver moved in on the Louis C Edwards group in the early 1970's the capitalization of the group has risen from £700,000 to close on £1.4 billion assuming Safeway goes through. The key task of the next few years will be to integrate the two groups and strive for the degree of excellence in retailing which Sainsbury has shown to be possible. Safeway improves the quality of Argill's business substantially, allowing a good deal of scope for rationalisation and improvement in image, buying power, distribution and overheads. If Argill's record in turning round Allied Suppliers is any guide, then in a few years it will be giving Sainsbury a run for its money.

TEMPUS

RHM and Waring & Gillow sweeten the Berisford figures

Stripping out the £78.2 million profit on the sale of its 14.6 per cent shareholding in Ranks Hovis McDougall and the £16 million profit from a management buyout at Waring & Gillow, S & W Berisford had nothing much to shout about in the two per cent increase in its 1985/86 profits.

Berisford argues there is nothing untoward about taking the Waring & Gillow profit above the line, claiming that one of its financial services skills is to nurture companies in difficulties with the express intention of relaunching them. However, it is hard to see an item of this size recurring.

The commodities division suffered a shortfall of nearly £3 million due to the plight of others who had misjudged the coffee market. A management restructuring is designed to improve the group's sourcing of raw materials.

Berisford's skills are better suited to a volatile commodities market, so current dull conditions are not especially welcome. Nevertheless, it should be possible to match last year's results.

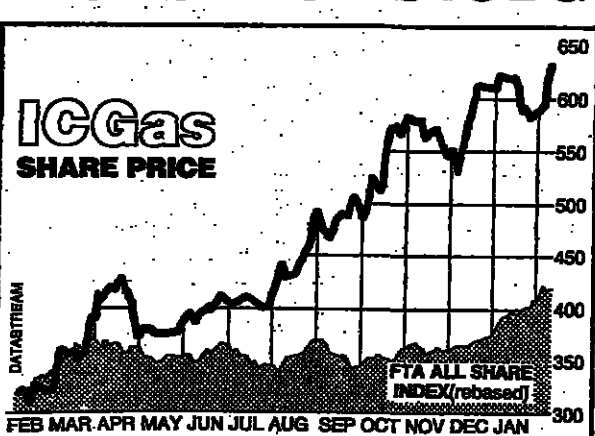
The benefits of reorganization in the industrial division should come through this year.

Further progress is anticipated in the food division, primarily due to British Sugar.

Berisford will do well to make £65 million this year. The shares are not expensive but any future performance depends on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission whose pronouncements are imminent.

If - and this seems unlikely - both Ferruzzi and Tate & Lyle are given the go ahead, an auction might push the shares over 300p. If Ferruzzi were to proceed with its British Sugar deal, Berisford's debt would come down giving it the scope to develop the food business further.

However, the threat of a placing of both Tate & Lyle and Ferruzzi's considerable shareholdings is uppermost in the market's mind and is likely to keep the price dull.



RMC Group

They are not ones to brag at RMC Group, otherwise one might have heard champagne corks popping at the group head office on Thursday night. The cement price cartel of 53 years standing had been voluntarily disbanded by the big three cement producers - an event long called for by RMC, the country's largest user of cement, taking more than 2 million tonnes a year.

In the past, customers buying a handful of cement paid the same price per tonne as those buying 3,000 trucks full. The larger producers with high central overheads were prevented by the common price agreement from buying in bulk and were often at a disadvantage when competing with more flexible smaller companies.

RMC maintained that it would prefer not to use imported material because of the advantages to be gained in service and quality. However, latterly a trickle of imports made it possible for those who bought at prices up to 10 per cent lower than those charged by domestic producers to tender for work, especially attractive prices, at especially attractive prices.

Such was RMC's frustration that it prepared the ground to use imports if it found itself at a serious disadvantage to other operators because of their use of imports.

Now, however, RMC will be faced with a competitive market with suppliers as well as customers. Initially this

will lead to a reduction in RMC's expenditure on cement. However, the relevant official bodies would not be impressed if none of the benefit from the disbanding of the cartel went to the end customer - in this case, the contractors.

Moreover, there is still a question mark overhanging the subject of transport. The cement producers are keen to push more of this burden on to the customers.

In general, however, life is looking good for RMC. End year currency movements and a favourable final quarter's trading in Britain have encouraged analysts to increase 1986 estimates by about £10 million to £105 million.

The shares have been strong performers reflecting investors' appreciation of the group's underlying strengths and its exposure to the overall level of construction spend. Although profit-takers may be tempted to take action, the shares do not look overvalued.

IC Gas

Things are happening fast in the usually slow moving Imperial Continental Gas Association. The sharp prod from the Gulf Resources bid has positively galvanised the group into action.

Only two months after the bid was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, IC Gas has come up with a scheme which will split the group into an

operating company, Calor, and Contibel, which will own IC Gas's Belgian investments.

Neither company is easy to value. There is nothing quite like Calor around, while a British investment holding company with all its assets in Belgium must be unique.

The market value of Contibel's mainly quoted assets is around £484 million, 339p a share. When it is quoted, it can be expected to go to at least an investment trust discount of about 20 per cent. A 14 per cent energy trust discount is unlikely, because although its holdings are energy stocks, none of them is regarded as a potential bid candidate.

On the contrary, the top-sided portfolio, concentration in Belgium and lack of investment trust status could make Contibel unattractive to many investors, and the discount could be as much as 25 per cent.

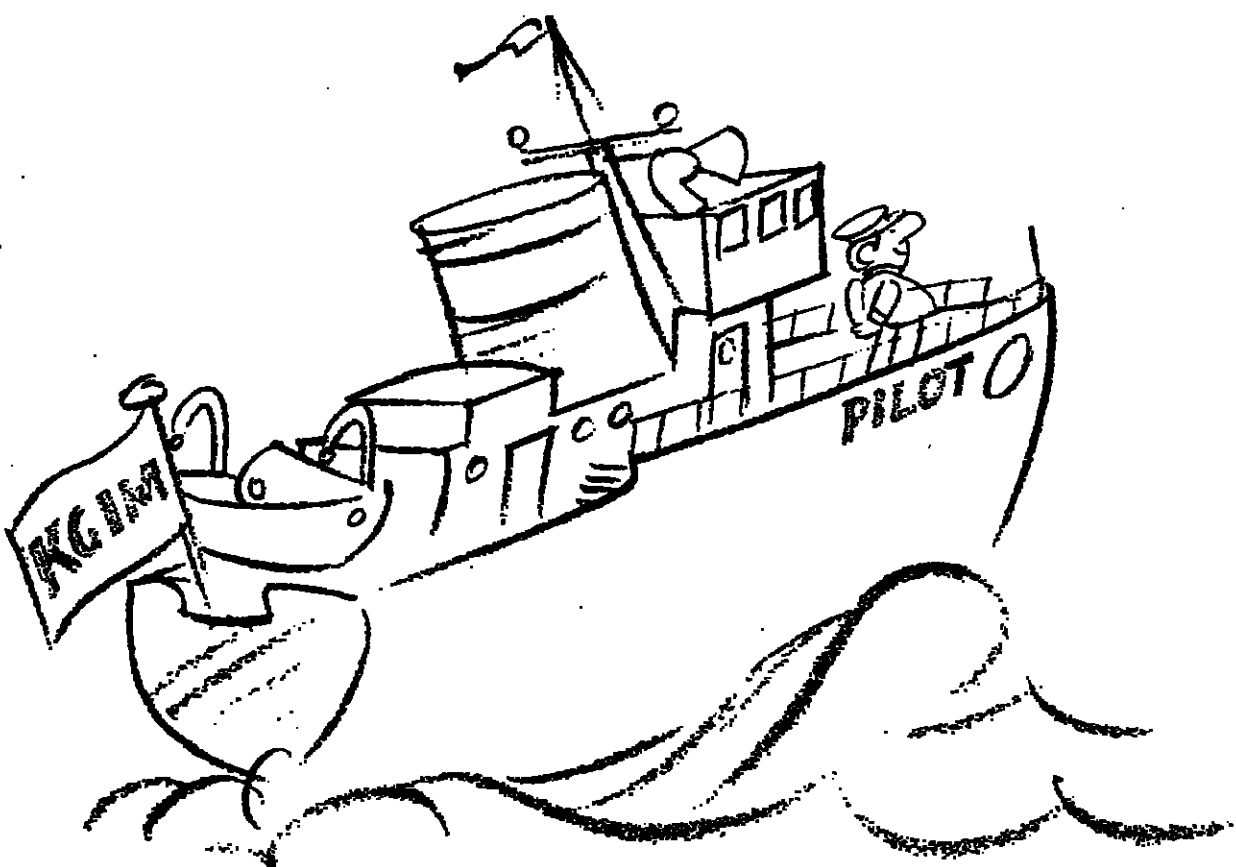
Contibel does not qualify for Investment Trust status because its holding in Petrofina is more than 43 per cent of total assets, whereas investment trusts are restricted to a maximum holding in any one share of 15 per cent.

This could result in potential capital gains tax liabilities on disposals. However, if the proceeds of disposals of Belgian investments are re-invested in Belgium, they do not attract capital gains tax.

If Contibel wants to invest outside Belgium, it could borrow, as it will have little gearing when it is floated. Otherwise it will need to pay Belgian capital gains tax of 43 per cent on disposals of investments held under five years, and 22½ per cent on those held over that time.

On the basis of a 22½ per cent discount - the midpoint of the range - Contibel could open at a price of around 262p. On the current market price of 634p for IC Gas, Calor should then open at 372p, implying a prospective p/e multiple of 12.5 on IC Gas's March earnings forecast.

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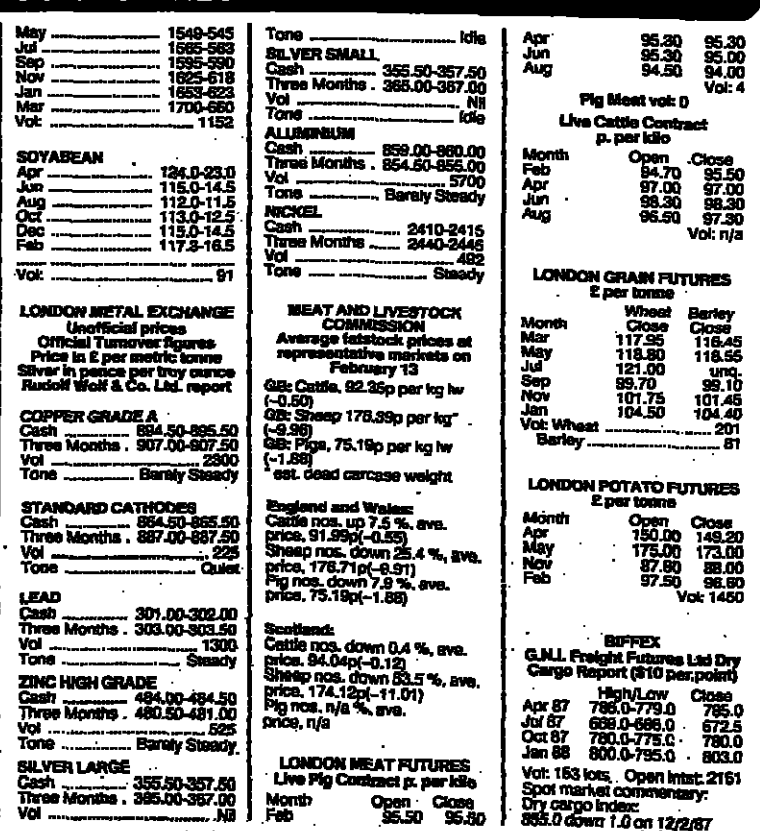
TRUSTEES AND PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING • UNIT TRUSTS • OFFSHORE FUNDS • PENSION FUNDS • PRIVATE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT • INVESTMENT TRUSTS

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

dividend, c Cum dividend, I Initial public offering, S Split, S Stock split, n No dividend, n No dividend for more of above, Desig Designation, M Monday, Tu Tuesday, Th Thursday, F Friday, S Saturday, Su Sunday, 1st 1st of month, (21) 21st of month, (22) 22nd of month, (23) 23rd of month, (24) 24th of month, (25) 25th of month, (26) 26th of month, (27) 27th of month, (28) 28th of month, (29) 29th of month, (30) 30th of month, (31) 31st of month, (Feb) 2nd day of February, May, A After, L Last, W Working day, (31) 31st of month, (32) 32nd of month, (33) 33rd of month, (40) 40th of month, (41) Last Thursday of month, (42) Last Thursday of month, (43) 43rd of month, (44) 44th of month, (45) 45th of month, (46) 46th of month, (47) 47th of month, (48) 48th of month, (49) 49th of month, (50) 50th of month, (51) 51st of month, (52) 52nd of month, (53) 53rd of month, (54) 54th of month, (55) 55th of month, (56) 56th of month, (57) 57th of month, (58) 58th of month, (59) 59th of month, (60) 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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

FINANCIAL TRUSTS



Portfolio - Gold -

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	East Lighting	Electricals	
2	Allied Colloids	Chemicals/Plastics	
3	First Nat Finance	Banking/Discount	
4	Bowditch	Electricals	
5	Eve (Wimbledon)	Drumery/Stores	
6	Maris Spencer	Drumery/Stores	
7	Harrods	Drumery/Stores	
8	Princes	Electricals	
9	Avic Europe	Electricals	
10	Armstrong	Industrial A-D	
11	Microgrip	Motor/Aircraft	
12	Alco-Lyons	Electricals	
13	Low (Wm)	Electricals	
14	Brown & Thorne	Industrial A-D	
15	Reed Int	Industrial A-D	
16	Joseph (Leopold)	Banking/Discount	
17	Stand Chart	Banking/Discount	
18	Whitcomb	Industrial S-Z	
19	Coca Cola	Drumery/Stores	
20	Woodhouse & Rix	Industrial S-Z	
21	Tarmac	Building/Roads	
22	Diplomat	Industrial A-D	
23	Lloyds	Banking/Discount	
24	Archcliffe	Building/Roads	
25	Coramouth Sand	Newspaper/Pubs	
26	Sale Valley	Industrial S-Z	
27	Hilldown	Food	
28	Cummins	Property	
29	Marting	Industrial L-R	
30	Morland	Electricals	
31	Cap & Cousins	Property	
32	Hanson	Industrial E-K	
33	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals/Plastics	
34	Scapa	Industrial S-Z	
35	BredonCloud Hill	Building/Roads	
36	Yorkshire TV	Cinema/TV	
37	ML Hops	Industrial L-R	
38	Loe & Metro	Property	
39	Glyved	Industrial E-K	
40	Stirling Ind	Industrial S-Z	
41	Bobby (J)	Industrial A-D	
42	Amber Day	Drumery/Stores	
43	Arca Energy	Oil	
44	Atlantic Resources	Oil	
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total			

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS						

1986 High Low Stock	Price	Change	%

SHORTS (Under Five Years)						

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						

UNDATED						

INDEX-LINKED						

BANKS DISCOUNT HP						

ELECTRICITY						

ELECTRICITY						

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities regain confidence

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 9. Dealings end February 20. Contango day February 23. Settlement day March 2.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.
Prices are recorded at 5pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close and may differ from changes calculated by comparing 5pm prices, published the previous day. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alphas Stocks.

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
1	East Lighting	1.10	0.01	1.0
2	Allied Colloids	1.10	0.01	1.0
3	First Nat Finance	1.10	0.01	1.0
4	Bowditch	1.10	0.01	1.0
5	Eve (Wimbledon)	1.10	0.01	1.0
6	Maris Spencer	1.10	0.01	1.0
7	Harrods	1.10	0.01	1.0
8	Princes	1.10	0.01	1.0
9	Avic Europe	1.10	0.01	1.0
10	Armstrong	1.10	0.01	1.0
11	Microgrip	1.10	0.01	1.0
12	Alco-Lyons	1.10	0.01	1.0
13	Low (Wm)	1.10	0.01	1.0
14	Brown & Thorne	1.10	0.01	1.0
15	Reed Int	1.10	0.01	1.0
16	Joseph (Leopold)	1.10	0.01	1.0
17	Stand Chart	1.10	0.01	1.0
18	Whitcomb	1.10	0.01	1.0
19	Coca Cola	1.10	0.01	1.0
20	Woodhouse & Rix	1.10	0.01	1.0
21	Tarmac	1.10	0.01	1.0
22	Diplomat	1.10	0.01	1.0
23	Lloyds	1.10	0.01	1.0
24	Archcliffe	1.10	0.01	1.0
25	Coramouth Sand	1.10	0.01	1.0
26	Sale Valley	1.10	0.01	1.0
27	Hilldown	1.10	0.01	1.0
28	Cummins	1.10	0.01	1.0
29	Marting	1.10	0.01	1.0
30	Morland	1.10	0.01	1.0
31	Cap & Cousins	1.10	0.01	1.0
32	Hanson	1.10	0.01	1.0
33	Yorkshire Chem	1.10	0.01	1.0
34	Scapa	1.10	0.01	1.0
35	BredonCloud Hill	1.10	0.01	1.0
36	Yorkshire TV	1.10	0.01	1.0
37	ML Hops	1.10	0.01	1.0
38	Loe & Metro	1.10	0.01	1.0
39	Glyved	1.10	0.01	1.0
40	Stirling Ind	1.10	0.01	1.0
41	Bobby (J)	1.10	0.01	1.0
42	Amber Day	1.10	0.01	1.0
43	Arca Energy	1.10	0.01	1.0
44	Atlantic Resources	1.10	0.01	1.0

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IN SHIELD PROTECT

FAMILY MONEY/2

Companies that lend to each other

Capitaljet, a Business Expansion Scheme company, is seeking to raise money from the public to start a travel agency business in circumstances that give considerable cause for concern.

LAWRENCE LEVER investigates

Capitaljet has already raised £100,000 and is seeking to raise a further £250,000 altogether. It is a spin-off from another company called Mediajet, which has prestigious shareholders including Denis Healey, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Lord Asa Briggs, the eminent historian.

Between them they own slightly more than 10 per cent. However, there is no evidence of suggestion that they have done anything wrong.

But the Capitaljet prospectus is such that we would strongly discourage people from investing in the project. It is sponsored by Leading Ladies, a member of FIMBRA, the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association.

Information obtained by *The Times* shows that Leading Ladies has lent money to Mediajet to enable it to meet its commitments.

Capitaljet directors come from Mediajet

The managing director of Leading Ladies is Ben Allport. He is also chairman of Mediajet which has been lending money interest-free to a company he controls — a financial services company called Auditcraft that carries out a totally different business.

There is no suggestion that these transactions are illegal. Bear in mind, however, that Capitaljet, the BES public issue, has no independent directors — they all come from Mediajet — and will be carrying on the same type of travel agency business as Mediajet. This includes trading under the same business name.

We are concerned, therefore, that the BES shareholders funds might at some point be used to provide loans to finance the existing travel agency business.

Moreover, a question mark hangs over the inter-company loans of which *The Times* has details. Insofar as they appear to be interest-free and given to companies not carrying on the same type of business, it is difficult to see how the direc-

tors were fulfilling their fiduciary duty to their shareholders to act in their best interests.

BES investors will need to be sure that the Mediajet directors will not act in the same way as regards Capitaljet.

John Walsh, Mediajet's managing director, who is also the director of Capitaljet, says there will be no such transactions.

Referring to the inter-company loans, he says: "There have not been any loans in either direction since November 1986 as we now have finance arrangements which obviate the need for borrowing in this way."

He says the chairman, Mr Allport, lent Mediajet money sometimes, and on other occasions it was the other way round.

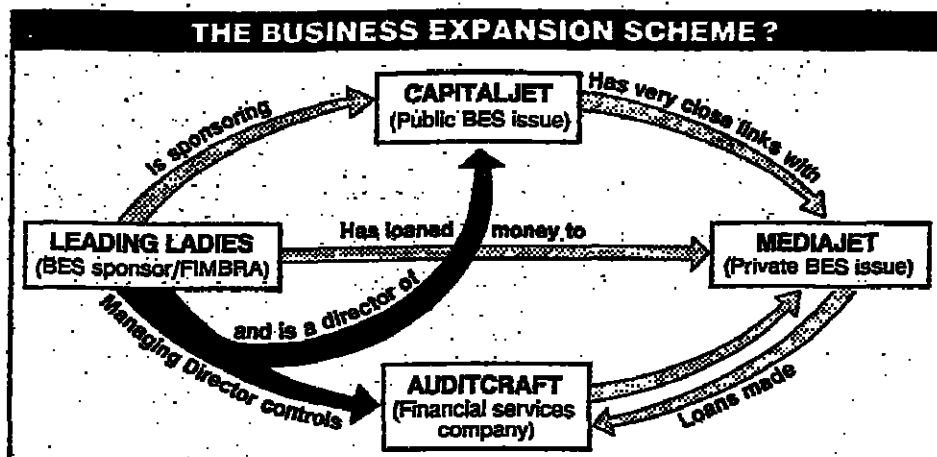
"It was a kind of 'you scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours' arrangement," he says. "We needed the money to enable us to meet our immediate short-term commitments. We help him more than he helps us with loans, but then again he does give an enormous amount of time to Mediajet gratis."

Mr Walsh says there is no question of money having been siphoned off from one company to another. He admits his shareholders have not been informed of the loans but says they were overall in Mediajet's best interests because they meant that when it needed money quickly Mr Allport made it available.

There is also evidence of transactions between Leading Ladies and Mediajet. *The Times* has seen cheques from Mediajet to Leading Ladies totalling £30,000. These are dated April 4, 1986, and June 16, 1986. And on August 22, 1986, the sum of £15,000 was paid into the Mediajet bank account by Leading Ladies.

Why is a travel agent writing out cheques to a financial services company such as Leading Ladies? Mr Walsh says the cheques were an error. "They should have been made payable to Mr Allport," he explains, as they represented repayment of moneys put into Mediajet by him.

Mr Allport says the same. He lent money to Mediajet and Mediajet was paying him back. A £25,000 cheque dated April 4 went straight into the Leading Ladies Business Expansion Scheme fund, he says, because he was going to invest in the fund and the money was needed to allow the fund to make an investment just before the end of the tax year. BES funds must invest their



money before the end of a tax year — otherwise the investors in the fund do not get their tax relief for that year.

There is no question of Mediajet money being used to prop up Leading Ladies, he says. As for the £15,000 transfer to Mediajet, he says: "Leading Ladies arranged to have their overdraft increased by £15,000. This occurred at a time when Mediajet was a bit short of money. We said we would lend it on a temporary basis for a very very short period."

He says there was no connection between the two events. "Leading Ladies did not increase its overdraft to keep Mediajet afloat," he says. "So what about the prospec-

tus for Capitaljet itself. First, the document does not say that provisional BES approval has been obtained for the company.

The accountant's report makes no reference to the projections contained in the prospectus of future profitability. The prospectus, issued around the beginning of October last year, says Mediajet "is now trading profitably". The accounts for the company to the year ending October 31, 1986, in fact show that it made a slight loss.

There is nothing in the prospectus about the potential conflict of interest between Mediajet and Capitaljet. "These are some, but not all,

He adds that a provision in the prospectus stating that the company has agreed to pay a fee to a non-executive director was included because this director, who is not named, will, when appointed, safeguard the interests of the shareholders in Capitaljet.

And the prospectus does warn investors that as no assurance is given on BES tax relief, they should consult their advisers.

Leading Ladies itself, according to Shona Macpherson, its solicitor, joined FIMBRA and satisfied its membership requirements in March 1986. Its membership comes up for review next month, she says.

The Leading Ladies BES fund invested in five companies, raising the money in the 1985-86 tax year. One of them, Cachet Ltd, is now in liquidation. A quarter of the fund was invested in this company. Leading Ladies had to withdraw a prospectus seeking to raise money for it when facts about the background of a member of its management emerged of which it says it was previously unaware.

"Two of the others are doing very well indeed," says Mrs Macpherson. "And none of the companies is struggling as far as I am aware."

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FAMILY MONEY/4

This repugnant apartheid, by Barclays

Barclays Bank, troubled by losing British students' accounts over its former South Africa links, has taken the unusual step of explaining its position on apartheid to young investors. In *Issues*, its new free magazine offering financial, educational and careers advice, Barclays says it has always opposed apartheid, that its chairman, Sir Timothy Bevan, has condemned Pretoria for its "woefully slow" action to abandon policies that are "repugnant, wrong, unchristian and unworkable", and that Barclays was known in South Africa as the "anti-apartheid bank".

So from 1976 Barclays decided to lend money in South Africa only to enhance the black population's living standards, and last March declared it would commit no new money there until the regime gained international credibility. The bank says it finally pulled out in November by selling its 40 per cent shareholding in the South African Barclays National Bank because of Pretoria's continued slowness in ending apartheid, and because Barclays National Bank's contribution to profits had fallen and Barclays needed to concentrate resources in more profitable areas. "Meanwhile, Barclays was losing business from students at home," it points out.

Homes 'shortage'

Strong demand for houses, particularly among young couples about to get married, is reported by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The institution says prices are expected to rise as buyers and sellers come out of hibernation, and a busy trade in valuations is reported among people already preparing to put their homes on the market. However, as many of these potential sellers are prematurely inquiring after new properties, this has, in some cases, led to an artificial "shortage" of properties on offer.

Following a survey of the northern region, the institution reports that more than half as many houses again as the national average are up for sale, and actual sales completed are up 25 per cent on country-wide figures. But



'It's a Valentine card from my bank manager. Roses are red, violets are blue, herewith enclosed, your IOU'

prices are not rising as quickly here as elsewhere.

Four Assets

Oppenheimer Fund Management has launched a Luxembourg-based investment — the Oppenheimer Managed Assets Company. Initially four growth funds will be offered — European, International, Pacific and Worldwide Recovery. There will also be a global income fund. The initial offer price of the shares will be £1.25 for the European fund and US\$10 for the other funds. Applications at the fixed price can be made at any time up to March 30. The minimum investment is \$5,000 or the equivalent and there is an initial charge of 5.25 per cent of the initial offer price and an annual management fee of 1 per cent of the net asset value of the company. A 1 per cent fee will be charged on switches between the funds.

Holiday caution

One in 10 holidaymakers going abroad this year can expect to make a claim, so the need for insurance should be obvious unless you want to find yourself the subject of a holiday horror story. Surprisingly, though, the take-up on holiday insurance is low, according to General Accident Assurance.

The importance of adequate holiday insurance is highlighted by GA's estimate that the minimum cost of an appendix operation in France is £500, but in America, £5,000. If more lengthy hospitalization is required — say,

from six to eight weeks — in Austria it would cost £7,500, and in the United States £15,000. In fact, says GA, many hospitals overseas are increasingly adopting the American attitude of "no money, no treatment".

Cover under holiday policies varies enormously. Activities such as scuba diving, hang-gliding and water-skiing might be regarded as dangerous by your insurance company and excluded from the policy, so check beforehand if you plan to take part in these sports.

Charity video

The Charities Aid Foundation has produced a video to promote the payroll giving scheme. The scheme is the Chancellor's tax concession that allows employees to give up to £120 a year, direct out of salary and tax-free, to the charities of their choice. It comes into force in April.

The video has been made as a promotional aid for both employers and charities to encourage employees to participate. It shows scenes of two types of payroll giving scheme already in operation, one on the factory floor and the other involving clerical workers. It also gives a broad indication of the types of charitable causes that could benefit from payroll giving schemes. One company, for example, has helped with the running costs of a hydrotherapy pool for a local charity in its area from donations its employees have made through the payroll.

In the United States \$2.3 billion was raised from payroll giving in 1985, and the Charities Aid Foundation is hoping that similar schemes will take off in the UK. By 1990 the aim is to get £100 million a year given to charity in this way.

Backing for PEPs

Tax breaks on personal equity plans could make them a better investment than a 10-year qualifying endowment policy, if held for the same length of time. Surprisingly, though, the take-up on holiday insurance is low, according to General Accident Assurance.

In an insurance company endowment scheme, income and gains are taxed at 35 per cent and 30 per cent respectively, whereas income and gains in a PEP roll up tax-free. Also, unlike endowment schemes, PEPs can be cashed in at any time after the



'We should have invested in plastic when we had the chance'

minimum investment period of one to two years, with no tax liabilities or loss of amounts contributed. By contrast, cashing in an endowment policy before its full term usually results in penalties. If cashed in before seven and a half years, a 10-year endowment policy investor can incur a higher rate tax liability as well as charges for early surrender. Blick Rotherberg & Noble says investors could well consider a PEP in preference to an endowment policy as a medium-term savings plan, particularly for school fees.



Financial advisers Chase de Vere Investments have opened their first personal investment centre in Bath, pictured above.

Chase de Vere says visitors to the centre can get advice or information on virtually any building society account, guaranteed income bond,

Two more

Investment managers Granville & Co have launched two personal equity plans. Both require a lump sum investment of £2,400. The managed plan is designed to appeal to investors who want Granville to take the investment decisions. Seventy-five per cent of the lump sum will be invested in three blue-chip stocks of Granville's choice and 25 per cent in the Granville Small Companies Unit Trust. The managed plan will close for subscription on March 27. The advisory plan is for investors who want to operate a PEP alongside an existing investment portfolio, or who wish to invest in shares of their own choice. The entire £2,400 will be invested in a single stock and Granville is prepared to advise on the choice, but responsibility for the selection and timing of the investment remains with the investor. The Granville Small Companies Unit Trust will remain open for subscription until the end of 1997. Both plans carry an initial charge of £50. The managed plan has an annual charge of 1.25 per cent, while the advisory plan has an annual charge of 1 per cent. On the advisory plan there is also stockbrokers' commission of 1.5 per cent to pay.

Self Employed Pensions.

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Pensions Management Magazine, November 1986

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Which is why Pensions Management picked us out for special mention in its latest review.

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When to challenge those charges

BANKS

Don't accept bank charges without a fight. They can be expensive — and sometimes very harsh. Which is why an appeal to your local bank manager is often well worth the effort.

One long-standing customer of National Westminster was shocked to discover bank charges of £14.69 when his latest statement arrived.

The total was made up after adding the £3 quarterly maintenance charge, £16 for a total of 64 debits, less a national allowance of £4.31.

His branch, one of the busiest in the City of London, said the charges had been made because he had overdrawn for one day during the

account, triggering off the full scale of charges.

But the advice from a friendly teller to drop the manager a letter asking him to reconsider had an unexpected outcome — the bank waived the charges completely.

NatWest said: "Managers do have a heart, and a customer who slips into overdraft for a day should not hesitate to make his feelings known."

Most banks agree that customers who regularly maintain a credit balance but occasionally slip into the red — perhaps because of a delay in a cheque being credited — should ask their branch to think again.

The Midland said: "The computer sees things in black and white, so if you are overdrawn even for one day it will have the same effect that 90 days would have. Our managers are able to use their discretion and if a customer normally keeps a healthy balance, then the manager will probably overlook the charges."

"But if you are the sort who is slipping into the red one or two days every other week, then I am afraid it isn't one."

However, the real aim should be to avoid slipping into the red at all. The banks compete fiercely on charges and stress the benefits of their "free banking" service for customers who keep an average balance in their account.

'This will appeal to customers'

NatWest, in fact, joins the "free banking" club next month for customers with an average of £500 in their account. This means they do not pay charges if they become overdrawn. Barclays and Lloyds operate similar limits, while the TSB has a lower credit ceiling of £400.

Derek Wanless, director of personal banking services for NatWest, said: "We recognize the importance of the high personal income customer and this extension of free banking will appeal to customers who generally maintain high balances, but occasionally need to overdraw."

The Midland disagrees and has not introduced a "free banking" limit. It explains: "We don't think most people would want to leave that amount lying around in their current account purely to avoid paying charges."

For customers who do end up paying, the charges vary, making direct comparison between the banks difficult. Along with its "free banking" limit, NatWest is increasing the charges for debits from 25p to 28p.

This compares with 29p at Barclays and 25p at the Midland — although Midland's quarterly maintenance charge is 50p cheaper than NatWest's. Lloyds charges 20p for debits and a £1-a-month maintenance charge.

Cliff Feltham

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In particular, Singapore has changed the rules of the massive Central Provident Fund to enable individuals to invest part of their savings in the Stock Market.

Malaysia too, has taken positive measures to create a favourable economic climate for growth.

MORE TO COME FROM HONG KONG

Despite Hong Kong's outstanding strength in 1986, the medium term outlook continues promising. Real growth for 1987 is expected to equal 1986. The property market continues to be buoyant and has recently attracted substantial interest from Japan and from Australia.

We are therefore retaining 36% of our portfolio in Hong Kong which is invested in safe long-term growth stocks.

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— 30th Jan 1987

** On an offer to bid price basis with income reinvested —

5th Sept 1985 — 10th Feb 1987

(Source: IDC Opt)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contract notes will be issued within 7 days; certificates within 42 days. The prices and yields are published daily in the leading national newspapers. You can sell units back to the Managers on any business day at the Bid Price ruling on the receipt of your instructions and a cheque will be sent within 7 days of receipt of your discharged certificate. An initial charge of 5% is included in the Offer Price of units. Remuneration is paid to qualified intermediaries — rates available on request. The annual charge is 1% per annum (plus VAT) of the trust value which is deducted from the Trust's gross income. The income distribution will be made annually on 1st May to unitholders registered by the 1st March. Trustees: Royal Exchange Assurance. Managers: County Unit Trust Managers. Registered Office: Garrard House, 31 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7DX. Registered Number: 907310. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

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GROUP WEIGHTED PERFORMANCE OF ALL FUNDS* AS AT JANUARY 1, 1987

Management group	No of funds	1 yr	3 yrs	5 yrs	10 yrs
M&G	26	10	5	9	7
Allied Dunbar	25	16	19	21	12
Save & Prosper	28	15	16	20	24
Barclays Unicorn	18	26	9	17	13
Henderson	30	6	13	10	10
TSB	10	20	12	18	11
Mercury	10	8	1	6	4
Schroder	14	7	6	4	6
Hill Samuel	16	14	15	11	21
Abbey	16	21	22	25	22
MIM Britannia	25	23	30	28	27
Prudential	11	28	24	26	20
Fidelity	15	1	4	1	n/a
Standard Life	8	27	2	n/a	n/a
Target	19	13	21	24	23
GT	9	4	11	7	9
Prolific	9	9	10	2	8
Gartmore	20	5	7	12	17
Legal & General	9	29	23	8	3
Norwich	5	24	27	19	5
Barrington	9	2	8	5	14
Equity & Law	7	18	26	23	16
Framlington	11	25	28	14	2
Lloyds Bank	10	12	14	13	15
GRE	8	30	29	29	19
Perpetual	6	17	3	2	2
Midland Bank	11	11	17	22	25
County Bank	14	19	20	16	28
Tyndall	18	22	25	27	26
Scottish Equitable	8	3	18	15	18

* Excluding any exempt funds

Source: Planned Savings

How to find your way through 1,000 funds

UNIT TRUSTS

Like Topsy, the unit trust industry continues to grow and grow. According to the Unit Trust Association, the value of funds under management, the amount of new investment and the number of unit account holders all reached new peaks in 1986.

At the same time, the number of unit trusts on offer has continued to increase, so that would-be investors now have more than 1,000 funds managed by more than 150 different groups from which they can choose.

Not surprisingly, a great many people feel daunted by the prospect, and prefer instead to leave the selection to the professional advisers who run a unit trust portfolio management service.

The performance of such portfolios, however, can on occasion be disappointing, and some investors may, therefore, decide to cut out any portfolio management fee and try their hand at making the decisions themselves.

For anyone who elects to go it alone, the problem of deciding which funds to buy remains. However, this can be eased by homing in on a single unit trust management group which offers a wide range of funds.

All the investor needs to do then is construct a portfolio from the various funds offered by that group.

As well as reducing the problem of selection, adopting this method can also save money, as most of the management groups offer substantial discounts on switches made between their different funds. This can mean a reduction on the spread between the buying and the selling price of anything from 1 to 4 per cent.

Sticking to one management group, however, can have its drawbacks. For a start, you may find some of the best-performing stock markets are not covered by the management group you have selected.

But, whereas this particular limitation is fairly easy to spot from the outset, it is much more difficult to feel confident that the group you have chosen will produce the best results overall.

One way of assessing the ability of the various management groups is to examine all the available statistics of every

one of the funds, and to pick out the group whose name appears at the top of the tables most often.

But even this method has a number of disadvantages. It is incredibly time-consuming and, more importantly, it is not very reliable because all too often it is the specialist funds that dominate the top of the performance tables.

And it does not take much investment experience to know that the specialist funds that are at the top today are all too often found at the bottom of tomorrow's league tables.

At present, there is no foolproof method of choosing a unit trust management group. However, *Planned Savings* magazine has devised a

The size of every fund is important

computer program that helps to simplify the task.

It is known as the Group Weighted Performance program and its objective is to monitor the performance of the top 30 unit trust management groups, selected by the amount of funds under management.

To do this, the program takes into account a number of different factors and weights them accordingly. Of primary importance, of course, is the size of every one of the funds within the group. Obviously, if a group manages half a dozen different funds, one of which is considerably larger than the rest, it will be this fund that has the greatest effect on the overall performance of the group.

So, to take account of this, the program weights every fund by its published value, and in order to be as accurate as possible, this is done annually at the start of the year. In doing this, any increase or, for that matter, any decrease in the value of the fund, and therefore its effect on the group's overall performance, is taken into account.

Any new funds added to the group's range that are the result of either new launches or acquisitions are also used in the calculations. However, to prevent any distortions occurring when a new fund is still held in cash deposits, or when a recently acquired fund is adjusting under the new management team, these additional funds are given a settling-in period before being included.

The Group Weighted Performance program can produce some very revealing findings. The table, for instance, shows the results as at January 1 this year. And, as can be seen, several groups are to be complimented on their consistency, namely, M&G, Prolific, Mercury, Schroder and Fidelity, all of which appear in the top 10 over every one of the different periods shown.

Bearing in mind the importance of choosing a group that offers a wide range of funds, it is also worth noting that some of the best performers manage at least 15 different unit trust funds.

As well as identifying the groups with a sound track record, the program also highlights those that have performed less well. GRE, for example, hugs the bottom of the table over all but the 10-year period, as a result of the rather pedestrian performance of its UK growth funds.

Of course, anyone with a holding in GRE's Property Shares fund will probably know that when compared with other funds invested in the same sector, this produced the highest return over both one and three years as at January 1.

But, the purpose of the Group Weighted Performance program is not to single out individual funds. Its sole objective is to identify groups that offer the most attractive returns overall.

Another point to bear in mind when examining the table is that these figures represent the performance of the unit trust management groups only on a particular day.

In fact, it is possible that if the program were run again now, the leaders of January 1 could be found somewhere further down the table, and, conversely, the laggards may fare rather better. But this limitation far from invalidates the program.

The trends it picks up are certainly worth considering. And, when compared with other, more primitive methods of performance assessment, it does provide a much fairer indication of the fund managers' investment skills.

Amanda Pardoe



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Tomorrow's Winning Markets

Gartmore Frontier Markets Trust, the first of its kind to be launched in the UK, is making a two-pronged push into this untapped territory.

A major portion of the portfolio will be invested directly in a spread of developing markets, many of which are to be found in the Far East and Asia, including Taiwan, Korea, Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia.

GARTMORE FRONTIER MARKETS TRUST

GENERAL INFORMATION Applications will be acknowledged and certificates will be forwarded within six weeks.

You can sell your units back to us at not less than the minimum bid price on any dealing day. You will normally receive a cheque within seven working days of the Managers receiving your renounced certificate.

The estimated current gross yield is unlikely to exceed 1%. After the initial Fixed Price start-up offer closes units can be bought at a current daily offer price. Prices and yields are quoted in leading national newspapers. The Trust is constituted and administered by a Trust Deed dated 20th January 1987 and authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The income of the Fund is distributed by the Trustee on the 31st May, the first payment being 31st May 1988 together with certificates for unitholders tax credits, which may be

Some Frontier Markets are closer to home - Spain and Turkey - while some Latin American countries also contain interesting investment prospects. The balance of the Fund will be invested in companies, listed on established stockmarkets, which derive a significant proportion of their profits from Frontier Market economies.

Gartmore's International Expertise

A unit trust venturing into these new territories needs a special kind of management. Gartmore, with its long-established international investment network, is ideally suited to this task.

This Fund, by its very nature, should be regarded as a long-term investment, with a risk factor amply balanced by its high growth potential.

Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

If you want to be a pioneer investor, several steps ahead of the crowd, complete the coupon today, talk to your adviser, or call Jo Durrant free on 0800-289 336 (24 hour service).

reclaimed from the Inland Revenue by those entitled to do so.

The Trust has an initial Management charge of 5.25%. The annual charge is set at 1.25% per annum (plus VAT) of the value of the Fund which is deducted from the assets of the Trust (as compared with the maximum of 2% permitted in the Trust Deed, and the Managers must give unit holders 3 months notice of any increase).

Remuneration is paid to qualified intermediaries: Rates available on request.

The Trust Deed permits investment in traded options within the limits allowed by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Trustee is Garton & Co. The Managers of the Trust are Gartmore Fund Managers Limited, 25 Mary Lane, London EC3A 8BP. Tel: 01-623 1212. (Member of the Unit Trust Association.)

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

To Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd, Frontier Markets Dept., 25 Mary Lane, London EC3A 8BP.

I/We enclose a cheque for £ (minimum £500) payable to Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd, to be invested in the Gartmore Frontier Markets Trust at the fixed offer price of 25p. This offer will close on Friday 6th March 1987. After the close of this offer units will be available at the daily quoted price.

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE
Surname (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms) _____
First Name (in full) _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

(Unit applicants must fill out and attach name and address separately.)
Tick box for automatic reinvestment of income _____

Gartmore
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C. Hoare & Co.	11.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	11.00%
Lloyds Bank	11.00%
Nat Westminster	11.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11.00%
TSB	11.00%
Citibank NA	11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

10%

London Law - St. James's Account

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Further details from Jen Tetsell
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FAMILY MONEY/6

Managers who bank on giving you loans

MORTGAGES

With increasing competition for personal savings, both from traditional rivals such as the banks, and new sources such as PEPs, building societies are finding their receipts are somewhat squeezed.

In the past, such a situation has meant a cutback in lending, and the emergence of mortgage queues.

At present, though, mortgage money is still freely available, as there are other willing lenders in the market, notably the banks. Mortgages have been offered by banks since the late 1970s, and although they all pulled out of the field around 1982, they are now back in full force.

National Westminster is the largest operator, with a lending portfolio that rivals some of the larger building societies. The other major banks are less prominent, but no less determined, while several regional and foreign banks, particularly the American ones, have also entered the market.

On the whole, there is not much to choose between a loan from a bank and a building society, though one or other may have an edge in particular circumstances. Banks can be more flexible about the type of property on

become one, to the extent of opening a current account, but there is no obligation to transfer any other financial business — though the bank would no doubt welcome it if you did.

While foreign banks still tend to concentrate on the luxury end of mortgage lending, the clearers are happy these days to handle much more modest needs. Barclays and Midland have no set minimum loan, while Lloyds and NatWest offer advances from £15,000 and the TSB from £8,000. Of these, only Barclays has an upper limit, of £200,000.

The figures are only guidelines

As with building societies, the amount a bank will actually lend is determined by the value of the property and the borrower's income. In the first respect, all the clearers, plus the TSB, will offer up to 90 per cent of purchase price or valuation, whichever is the less.

If you are a first-time buyer, the percentages are usually more generous. Barclays, Lloyds, NatWest and the TSB will lend up to 95 per cent in this case.

On income requirements, the banks apply criteria similar to those of building societies. Barclays, Lloyds, and NatWest, for example, offer three times salary, or three times the main plus once the secondary income for joint borrowers. Midland also applies a factor of three for single applicants, but will lend twice joint income for couples, which will come to something less than the three and one formula.

The TSB is a little less forthcoming, at two and three-quarters times income plus once any secondary salary.

It should be said, though, that all these figures are only guidelines, and not guaranteed for every case. In some instances, a bank may be prepared to lend above its usual limits, though in others it may not go so high.

With income multiples, for example, the main criterion is that the borrower can meet the repayments. If you have other financial commitments, such as outstanding loans, alimony payments or school fees, you may find you are offered less than someone with no other obligations to meet.

Among the clearing banks, Barclays and NatWest stipulate a minimum term for the mortgage, of 10 years. What this means, though, is that the loan will not be drawn up for a shorter term. In practice the average borrower will move house well within that time, and hence redeem or renegotiate the advance, and there is no penalty for doing this.

At the other end of the scale, NatWest will offer mortgages for up to 35 years, while the others all set a maximum of 25 years. There is usually a proviso that the mortgage must finish before retirement, but Barclays has no age restriction.

Coming down to the bottom line, the cost, the banks charge an interest rate similar to those of the building societies. Barclays and NatWest have rates of 12.25 per cent, Lloyds 12.3 per cent and Midland 12.5 per cent.

The TSB appears unusual at first sight, in that it differentiates between repayment and endowment mortgages, and against what used to be common practice, charges more for the former — 12.75 per cent as against 12.25 per cent. However, the repayment mortgage includes free life assurance for the main borrower up to £50,000, which it reckons to be worth 0.5 per



Looking for a mortgage? Now the banks are definitely back in business

cent off the interest rate.

A point to remember, when comparing rates, is the difference between the nominal rate and the annual percentage rate (APR). The latter, which all lenders must now quote, represents the "true" cost, taking into account ancillary charges and the frequency with which interest is calculated.

The distinction is important. From the figures quoted above, Midland may

look comparatively expensive. The APR, however, is 13.1 per cent, against NatWest's 13.2 per cent, while Barclays is cheaper yet, at 12.9 per cent for an endowment mortgage.

The other potential cost to bear in mind is the arrangement fee. This is included in the APR calculations but, being an "up-front" charge, it could be an important consideration for first-time buyers in particular, as an addition to

the valuation and solicitor's fees to be met.

Barclays used to have the highest fee, at £125, but is waiving it for 1987. This leaves only Lloyds and Midland with a charge, of £100. NatWest used to charge the same £100, but has abandoned the practice, and the TSB's services — in this respect, at least — also come free.

Liz Walkington

Larger loan may be easier from a bank

which they will grant a mortgage. For example, building societies tend to be wary of leasehold property where the lease has not long to run, while some banks are prepared to consider a lease as short as 40 years. On the other hand, the amount they will lend may be reduced if the house or flat is not readily saleable.

Larger loans may also be easier to arrange with a bank. When the banks first came into the mortgage market, it was chiefly at the upper end, so they have considerable experience in this area.

Again, if you are self-employed, you may find your bank more receptive than a building society. You will still have to provide confirmation of income, and in most cases, audited accounts for the past two or three years, but if the manager is already familiar with your business affairs, this could help smooth the way. However, you do not have to be an existing customer of a bank to qualify for a mortgage. You will, of course, have to

HENDERSON'S NEW BEST OF BRITISH.
£400 BUYS A LOT OF TRUST.

Last year, Allied-Lyons turned over £3302 million and showed profits of £260 million.

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And that's only three of the selected companies considered by Henderson for its new Best of British Trust.

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HOW ARE THE COMPANIES CHOSEN?

We set up a special team of experts to study Britain's best known companies. The final selection has been based on two criteria: past performance and projected growth. The result is an elite amongst the elite.

WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF THE FUND?

The portfolio is selected for secure, long-term growth. As with any unit trust, Best of British pools investors' contributions to buy into the shares of the chosen companies. The portfolio is then constantly re-evaluated, updated and revised by Henderson's highly experienced investment managers, whose main objective is to increase your capital.

CAN I BE SURE OF SUCCESS?

Let's start with the name Henderson itself — one of the most respected in the City.

We've invested money successfully for over 50 years.

Today, with over £5500 million currently under our management, no company is better equipped to design a trust as special as this one.

Unit trust prices, and the income from them, can go down as well as up.

But it's worth noting that last year, the top 100 companies showed an average return of 13.7% on investors' money (as measured by the FT SE 100 Index — to 1/12/86). By comparison, a building society ordinary share account, over the same period (with all interest re-invested) averaged 6.3%.

HOW LITTLE? HOW MUCH?

You can get started for a lump sum investment as small as £400. Or you can invest from £25 a month on a regular basis.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

The fastest way is to send in this coupon with your cheque. Or talk to your professional adviser about how Best of British could suit your financial needs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Distributions of income will be paid on 1st January and 1st July, the first payment being on 1st July 1987. The estimated gross annual yield is 2.45% (6.287). Contract notes will be issued and unit certificates will be provided within five weeks of payment. If you use a professional adviser, the contract note will be sent to him. To sell units, endorse your certificate and send it to the managers, payment based on the ruling bid price will normally be made within seven working days. Unit trusts are not subject to capital gains tax, moreover a unitholder will not pay this tax on a disposal of units unless his total taxable gains from all sources in the tax year amount to more than the annual exemption limit (£6,300-1986/7). Prices and yields can be found daily in the national press. An annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) on the value of the Trust will be deducted from the gross income to cover administration costs, with a provision in the Trust Deed to increase this to a maximum of 2% on giving three months' written notice to the unitholders.

Trustee: Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Unit Trust Service, 42 Ldington High Street, London N1 8XL
Manager: Henderson Unit Trust Management Ltd., 26 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DA (Registered Office). Registered in England No. 896363
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A Prudential Personal Equity Plan, or PEP, offers UK taxpayers over 18 the chance to invest up to £2,400 a year. And any income or capital gain will be completely free of tax.

We're offering three PEPs, all of which have distinct advantages over all other plans. For instance, there is no initial charge for either the Equiplan or the Multiplan scheme.

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All administration and dealings with the Inland Revenue will be managed by the Prudential team.

Of course you must remember that the price of shares and units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

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Prudential Portfolio Managers Limited. Invested solely in securities.

To: Henderson Unit Trust Management Ltd., Dealing Department, 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1AA.

I/We wish to invest £ (minimum £400) in Henderson's Best of British Trust at the offer price ruling on the day of receipt and enclose a cheque payable to Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited.

I/We wish to invest £ per month (minimum £25) in Henderson's Best of British Trust, and enclose a cheque for the first month's investment payable to Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited. Details on how to make subsequent payments will be sent to you on receipt of this coupon. Please send separate cheques if you wish to invest both a lump sum and a monthly subscription.

If you wish to have net income reinvested please tick ☐ Joint applicants must both sign and attach full names and addresses separately. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Mr/Mrs/Ms Title _____ Forename(s) in full _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

My Professional adviser is* _____



HENDERSON.
THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS.

3 UNIT TRUSTS

EXTRA
UNITS UP TO
5th APRIL

With over one thousand unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose? In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust, and M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each: Recovery Fund for capital growth, Dividend Fund for an increasing income, and SECOND General for a balance between income and growth.

You should remember that new funds or funds which suffer a change of management are likely to be more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record. M&G's investment team has remained largely unchanged for many years, and our long-term performance record reflects this. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is usually the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective.

We are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more per Fund.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT. ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	11,760	8,570	11,020	11,058
1975	28,490	11,211	21,283	21,178
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,521
1985	270,800	49,474	55,233	40,164
1 Feb '87	440,320	64,343	57,172	43,503*

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 1% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION On 12th February 1987 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

	Income	Accumulation	Yield
Recovery Fund	450-5p	603-3p	2-80%
Dividend Fund	495-3p	1452-9p	4-51%
SECOND General	567-6p	1737-7p	3-31%

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The difference between the 'offered' price (at which you buy units) and the 'bid' price (at which you sell) is normally 6%. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each unit's value - currently 4% - plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for Income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

	Recovery	Dividend	SECOND
Distributions	20 Feb, 20 Aug, 20 Nov	15 Jun, 15 Sep, 15 Dec	15 Aug, 15 Nov, 15 Feb
Next distribution	20 Aug	15 Sep	15 Aug
For new investors	1987	1987	1987

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. The Trustees for Dividend and Recovery are Barclays Bank Ltd and for SECOND is Lloyd's Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider-range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel: 0245 266266. Advisory Services: 01-626 4588. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income and a yield about 50% higher than the FT Actuarial All Share Index.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '84	£396	£536	£10,000	£10,000
1985	463	650	10,760	10,000
1970	828	871	16,300	10,000
1975	2,660	2,540	21,460	10,000
1980	2,778	907	68,160	10,000
1985	2,680	750	84,820	10,000
1 Feb '87	-	-	91,420	10,000

NOTES All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 1% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 30-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT. ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1960	19,520	20,080	11,293	12,483
1965	31,320	28,230	13,492	16,093
1970	46,480	30,540	17,143	21,636
1975	79,840	39,620	33,107	31,651
1980	195,400	61,600	62,494	49,931
1985	546,000	176,240	85,918	78,580
1 Feb '87	790,600	229,200	88,934	85,113*

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 1% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

All applications received by 5th April 1987 will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund.

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1FB. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of your choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and SECOND and Income units will be issued for Dividend) at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

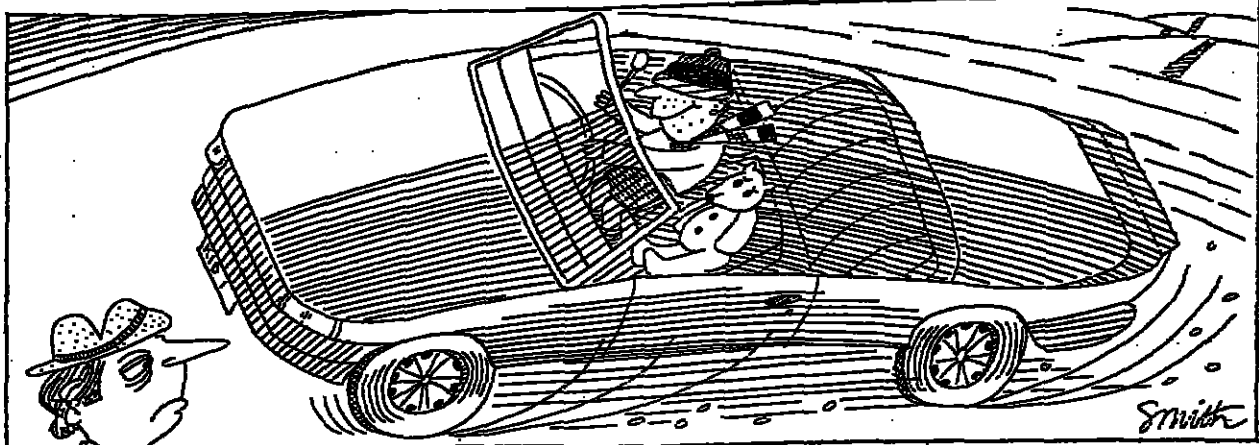
A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

	RECOVERY (M&G £1,000)	DIVIDEND (M&G £1,000)	SECOND (M&G £1,000)
NAME	£ -00	£ -00	£ -00
SURNAME			
ADDRESS			
POST CODE			

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Registered in England No. 90776 Reg. Office: Three Doves, Tower Hill, London EC3N 4DF. The offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

FAMILY MONEY/7



Hardest bargain to drive

Finding insurance for a young driver can be a problem, and an expensive one at that. ROD MORRISON reports

Young drivers are the bane of insurance companies. Lack of experience and, perhaps, a heavy right foot mean the claims experience under young driver policies is worse than many other classes of business. As a result, the insurers put heavy loadings on premiums, especially where the driver has just passed the L-test.

In addition, the ways open to reducing costs are declining. Insurers are not so keen to attract business with discounts any more after having burnt their fingers with overgenerous underwriting terms aimed at bringing in the business. Yet there are ways to lighten the load.

The most obvious one is to spread the cost of insurance over the year the policy is in force. This can be done through an instalment plan which, given the increase in insurance rates in general, is becoming more popular.

Two types of policy are offered. Norwich Union allows policyholders to pay either within five months or over the year in monthly instalments. A charge is levied for using the service, equivalent to an annual percentage rate (APR) of 6.2 per cent for the five-month policy and 11.3 per cent on the annual policy.

Eagle Star also has these two options. It requires a deposit of two months' premiums on the yearly policy and charges an APR of 13.7 per cent. The company is not keen on promoting the five-month plan and charges a service fee of £1 per £100 insured. With many instalment plans the

policyholder must have a bank account so that the premium can be directly debited.

Starter discounts for first-time buyers of insurance were popular with the companies but have been tightened up during the past year.

Eagle Star has withdrawn its introductory discounts. Provincial used to give these discounts to drivers under 21 but now restricts them to those over 21. A policyholder between the ages of 21 and 24 can get a 15 per cent cut in premium if he or she has had a driving licence for 12 months with no convictions in the past five years and no accidents in the past three.

Norwich Union allows a rate cut to drivers it knows. If the policyholder has had a previous motor cycle policy

discount rather than having the insurance cover under a family policy. Certainly this is the way the insurers would like to see it. If the family has two cars, the insurers will usually rate the premium relating to the second car on the age of the youngest driver.

An excess, the amount the insurer deducts from a successful claim, is another way to reduce claims, but hefty compulsory excesses are already a feature of the young driver market.

Eagle Star charges an excess of £200 for drivers under 21 and £150 for those between 21 and 25. This compares with £100 and £75 for General Accident. But the excess can be increased further under most policies to reduce premiums.

The driver's occupation can have a bearing on the premium. Students often attract a premium loading. Under the young driver scheme of the Lloyd's syndicate, Trojan, nearly a third extra is added to the premium. But as students are unlikely to own new cars, they can gain in another respect.

Discounts related to the age of the car can be obtained. For instance, Lombard Continental offers a 10 per cent premium reduction on cars manufactured between 1979 and 1983, increasing to 20 per cent for those made before 1979.

Yet there are some cars on which, if the driver is young, the insurer will not quote. A young driver and a sports vehicle is not a happy combination. A 19-year-old with an MGB is looking at a premium of more than £600 on a third party fire and theft policy if he or she has no claim-free experience. So when buying such a car, ask yourself if you can afford the insurance.

If you can, you will prob-

18-year-old student in London SW19, driving £1,000 Mini, with third party, fire and theft cover, without no claims discount

Company	Premium
Eagle Star	£206.00
Anserv	£229.33*
KGM	£238.63
Prudential	£278.75
Trojan	£281.25
MIG Option	£290.00
Pegasus	£290.00
Enterprise	£298.00
NIG Standard	£410.00
Drake	£416.00

* non-drivers only

23-year-old non-student in London SW19, driving £1,000 Mini, with third party, fire and theft cover, five-year no claims discount

Company	Premium
Lombard	£71.00
Continental	£74.88
Pegasus	£77.00
Hibernian	£77.00
KGM	£78.75
Eagle Star	£81.00
Orion	£81.70
Drake	£86.00
Iron Trades	£87.00
NIG Option	£90.00
GRE	£90.00

Source: Expert Information Systems

ably have to go to what is called the non-standard insurance market, dealing in high-premium business. This can also be a home, in insurance terms, for drivers with drink-driving convictions and expensive sports cars.

The insurers are rated on a points-for-risk basis. Cloverleaf, part of the Sentry group, adds 15 points for those between 17 and 18 and five points for 21-year-olds. A drink-driving conviction carries a four-point penalty and students are loaded with two extra points.

£25 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £25 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st October 1986 your total outlay of £4,500 would have built up to £9,000. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £23,209, an extra £14,209.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £25. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order Form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £25 A MONTH BY 1st JAN. 1987

Amount paid in	15 Years (1 Jan 1972 - 1 Jan 1987)	20 Years (1 Jan 1967 - 1 Jan 1987)
M&G Recovery	3,151	10,891
M&G Dividend	3,077	10,485
M&G SECOND	2,755	9,997
FT. Industrial Ordinary Index	2,684	8,224
Building Society Savings Account	1,828	4,690

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are 'bid' prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

the Rules of the Plan are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts - 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually for management. There are no extra charges for the Savings Plan.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty.

The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

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I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund circled.

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Account No. (leave blank) _____

Signature _____

Address _____

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Small print text at the bottom of the advertisement.

FAMILY MONEY/8

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Return at tax rates			Min/max		
	25%	45%	60%	Investment 2	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Deposit A/c:						
Barclays	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1567
Lloyds	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1500
National Westminster	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-726 1000
Midland	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-260 8000
TSB	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-600 6000
National Girobank†	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-600 6020
Fixed Term Deposits:						
National Westminster	7.53	5.91	4.30	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-726 1000
"	7.38	5.72	4.16	10,000-24,999	3 mth	01-726 1000
"	7.25	5.62	4.08	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-726 1000
Midland	7.10	5.50	4.00	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-260 8000
"	7.00	5.42	3.94	10,000-24,999	3 mth	01-260 8000
"	6.82	5.28	3.84	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-260 8000

BUILDING SOCIETIES

Ordinary A/c	8.00	4.65	3.38	1 min	
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MONEY FUNDS

Aitken Hume Monthly Income	7.66	5.93	4.32	1,000 min		01-638 6070
Bank of Scotland	7.66	5.93	4.32	2,500 min		01-628 8060
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.13	5.52	4.02	1,000 min		01-626 1567
Britannia High Interest	7.66	5.93	4.32	10,000 min		01-626 1567
HFC Trust	7.66	5.93	4.32	2,500 min		01-588 2777
Headstrong Money Mkt Cheq A/c	8.50	6.58	4.79	5,000 min		01-236 8391
L & G High Interest Deposit	7.66	5.93	4.32	2,500 min		01-638 5757
Lloyds HICA	9.15	6.31	4.59	1,000 min	1 mth	01-388 3211
M&G HICA	7.70	5.96	4.24	2,500 min		01-626 1500
Midland HICA	7.56	5.88	4.26	2,500 min		0742 4588
"	7.45	5.77	4.20	2,000 min		0742 82800
Nat West High Int Special Res	7.70	5.96	4.34	10,000 min		01-726 1000
"	7.63	5.91	4.30	2,000 min		01-726 1000
Oppenheimer Money Mgmt A/c	7.75	6.00	4.37	10,000 min	1 mth	01-236 9362
Royal Bank of Scotland Prem A/c	8.04	6.23	4.53	10,000 min	1 mth	01-236 9362
Schroder Wagg	7.75	6.00	4.37	2,500 min		021-557091
"	7.29	5.65	4.11	2,500 min		0705 827733
Tullet & Riley Call	7.48	5.80	4.22	10,000 min		01-236 9362
Tullet & Riley 7-day	7.32	5.64	4.16	1,000 min		0272 732241
Tyndall Call	7.82	6.14	4.46	2,500 min	7 day	0272 732241
Tyndall 7-day	7.87	6.10	4.44	2,500 min	7 day	01-626 4681
Western Trust	7.75	6.00	4.37	5,000 min	7 day	0752 281161

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Investment A/c	8.34	6.46	4.70	5-100,000	1 mth	041-6494555
Income Bond	8.70	6.74	4.90	2,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 66151
Deposit Bond	8.70	6.74	4.90	100-100,000	3 mth	041-6494555
Indexed Income Bond	5.68	4.40	3.20	5,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 66151
32nd Issue Certificate	8.75	6.75	4.95	25-5,000	8 day	0385 64900
Yearly Plan	8.84	6.84	5.04	20-200 a mth	14 day	0385 64900
General Extension Rate	8.70	6.70	4.90			
Retail Prices Index						

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Financial Planning Services	10.1	8.48	6.97	1,000 min	1 yr	0992 30488
Financial Planning Services	10.0	8.45	7.00	1,000 min	2 yrs	0992 30488
Financial Planning Services	10.0	8.51	7.08	1,000 min	3 yrs	0992 30488
Financial Planning Services	10.0	8.54	7.14	1,000 min	4 yrs	0992 30488
Premium Life	8.60	6.66	4.85	1,000 min	5 yrs	0444 458721

LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS

Reading	7.50	5.81	4.23	1,000 min	1 yr	01-638 6361
Nottingham	8.00	6.20	4.51	500 min	2 yrs	01-638 6361
Nottingham	8.00	6.20	4.51	500 min	3 yrs	01-638 6361
Nottingham	8.00	6.20	4.51	500 min	4 yrs	01-638 6361
Nottingham	8.20	6.35	4.62	500 min	5 yrs	01-638 6361
Nottingham	8.20	6.35	4.62	500 min	6 yrs	01-638 6361
Nottingham	8.20	6.35	4.62	500 min	7 yrs	01-638 6361
Nottingham	8.20	6.35	4.62	500 min	8 yrs	01-638 6361
Vale of Glamorgan	6.13	4.75	3.45	500 min	8 yrs	01-638 6361
Taff Ely	6.21	4.81	3.50	1,000 min	9 yrs	01-638 6361
Taff Ely	6.21	4.81	3.50	1,000 min	10 yrs	01-638 6361

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS

Sterling	10.08				7 day	0481 26741
US Dollar	5.21				7 day	0481 26741
Yen	3.18				7 day	0481 26741
D Mark	3.18				7 day	0481 26741
French Franc	7.48				7 day	0481 26741
Swiss Franc	1.28				7 day	0481 26741

*Interest Taxable, paid gross. *Tax free. (†) Other banks may differ. (‡) Extra interest accounts usually pay 1-2 per cent above ordinary accounts. (¶) Increased at end of year in line with rate of inflation. (¶) December 1986 figures 394.5. (¶) Rates for higher rate taxpayers may differ according to type of bond and above rates should be taken as a general guide only. Research: Deborah Benn (01-622 9082)

Starved?
No, say
experts

Overseas investment does not starve British industry of finance, according to a report published this week by the influential Institute for Fiscal Studies.

The IFS rejects the "starvation" view in its assessment of the Labour Party's proposal to repatriate capital invested overseas. Profitable investment projects in the UK can also attract finance from abroad, the IFS points out — but domestic investment could benefit from repatriation if the opportunity was taken to keep interest rates lower than they might otherwise have been.

The IFS says Labour's scheme offers institutions a choice — either comply with a quota on the proportion of total assets held overseas or face the penalty of losing their current tax reliefs. This penalty would be very serious for pension funds, and many unit trusts would be unable to comply as their aim is often to invest only in overseas markets.

In a separate study, also out this week, the IFS looks at the Chancellor's options for the Budget. The IFS Green Budget concludes that it is highly likely that personal income tax will be reduced, but there remains a choice between raising allowances and cutting rates. Raising allowances still benefits the less well-off relatively more than tax cuts.

The IFS also looks at the possibility of reforms to the higher rates of income tax. These include the abolition of higher rate relief on mortgage interest payments and restricting the value of tax allowances to the basic tax rate.

Peter Gardland

* Capital Controls: the implications of restricting overseas portfolio capital, available from the Institute for Fiscal Studies, 180-182 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LE, at £10

Portfolio
—Gold—

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes

Sec	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+5	+3	-3	+3	+5		
2	+2	+4	-3	+4	+5		
3	+5	+7	-2	+3	+4		
4	+8	+2	-1	+3	+5		
5	+3	+5	-3	+4	+5		
6	+5	+1	-2	+4	+5		
7	+3	+3	-2	+3	+6		
8	+4	+8	-2	+3	+7		
9	+5	+4	-3	+5	+4		
10	+4	+3	-3	+2	+7		
11	+4	+6	-2	+2	+5		
12	+4	+4	-5	+2	+5		
13	+4	+2	-3	+3	+5		
14	+3	+8	-2	+1	+7		
15	+7	+3	-2	+4	+5		
16	+4	+3	-2	+2	+4		
17	+3	+3	-4	+2	+6		
18	+4	+7	-2	+2	+5		
19	+5	+7	-3	+1	+4		
20	+8	+3	-3	+3	+8		
21	+2	+4	-4	+2	+5		
22	+8	+3	-2	+4	+5		
23	+5	+5	-3	+3	+5		
24	+3	+3	-4	+4	+5		
25	+8	+3	-2	+3	+6		
26	+2	+6	-2	+1	+5		
27	+5	+3	-4	+4	+6		
28	+3	+5	-3	+4	+4		
29	+3	+7	-1	+1	+7		
30	+3	+1	-3	+4	+6		
31	+4	+3	-4	+4	+4		
32	+2	+7	-1	+2	+4		
33	+4	+2	-3	+3	+4		
34	+5	+5	-4	+3	+8		
35	+5	+4	-3	+3	+5		
36	+2	+8	-2	+2	+5		
37	+4	+2	-1	+2	+6		
38	+7	+4	-4	+5	+8		
39	+8	+5	-4	+2	+8		
40	+5	+2	-3	+3	+6		
41	+2	+3	-3	+2	+8		
42	+6	+3	-2	+4	+4		
43	+4	+1	-1	+3	+4		
44	+5	+7	-2	+3	+4		

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London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Jersey, Singapore, Melbourne and New York, the Wardley Group is well equipped to manage and advise funds on a global scale — borne witness to by the performance of Wardley's existing unit trusts. Wardley Global Selection will benefit from the skills and experience of the same investment teams responsible for Wardley's enviable record to date.

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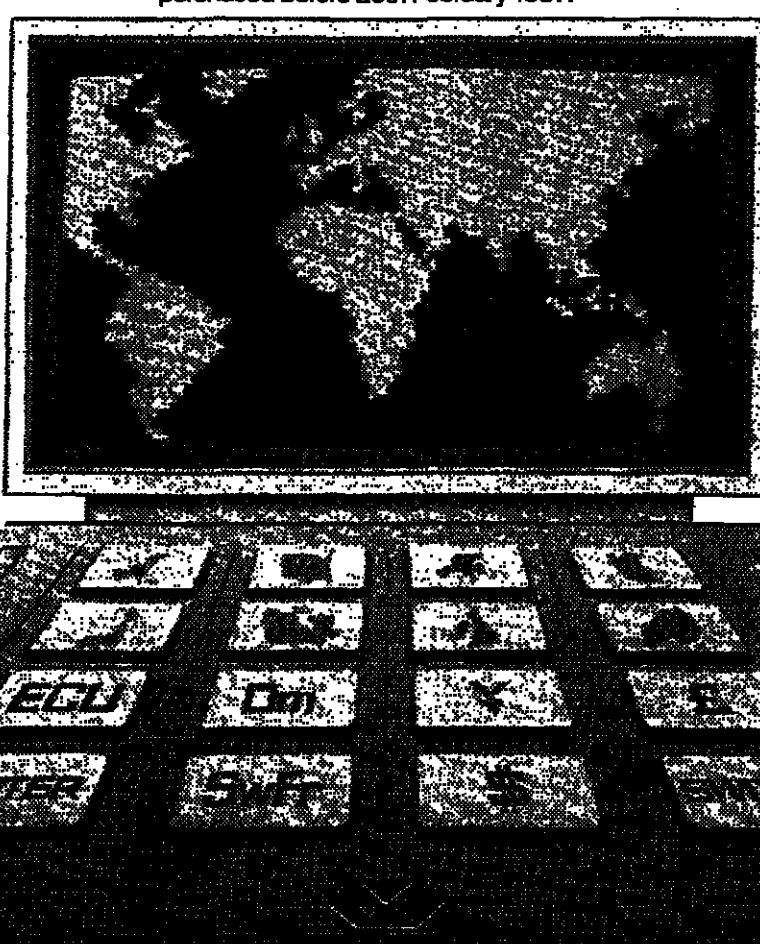
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JOHNSON FRY plc — the BES experts

Princes House 36 Jernyn Street London SW1Y 6DT. Telephone: 01-439 0924.



so held on February 9 in dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Kevin Vel against the refusal by Flint Justices to allow a trial within a trial to decide the admissibility of confession evidence and against

¹ THE AMOUNT WILL VARY DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF DAYS PER MONTH. THIS IS AN AVERAGE FIGURE CALCULATED AT THE INTEREST RATE ON THE DAY OF GOING TO PRESS

RACING

Growing concern for See You Then

Despite a 12-1 winner with Mandari in the Cuckfield Handicap Hurdle at Newbury yesterday, it was still Friday the 13th gloom for champion trainer Nick Henderson, who is battling to get his dual champion hurdler, See You Then, 100 per cent fit.

See You Then had a swollen near-foreleg, and a large corn was extracted. His trainer reported: "We thought the corn was the reason for everything in the leg blowing up. But since the corn has been removed there are still problems with the suspensory ligaments. On two days this week the leg has been like a bar of ice, but last night it was warm again."

"He's got pads on his shoe, and did a good canter this morning, but the situation is a nightmare. I just want to get him onto a racetrack, and maybe he can work at Sandown next Friday."

"See You Then has done so much swimming that I wouldn't be surprised if he grew webbed feet. We're just hoping for the best," Henderson said.

Ladbrokes reacted by easing See You Then from 7-4 to 9-4 in their betting for the Champion. Bill Elsey, the Milton trainer, had immediate success with his first Newbury jumping runner when Past Classics came home by ten lengths from Jazetas in the Grand Green Hurdle to complete a treble. The colt is now a 20-1 chance with Hills for the Triumph Hurdle.

Somerset-trained hurdler Panto Prince made an impressive winning debut over fences, jumping like a stag to come home 12 lengths clear of Tormore Green in the Aldermaston Novices' Chase.

POINT-TO-POINT Astral Spirit can maintain progress in Times qualifier

By Brian Beal

The new point-to-point series sponsored by *The Times* begins today at the Oxford Dragbonds and it is a welcome addition to the calendar judging by the 42 entries it has attracted. Should more than 24 runners be declared the race, a restricted open, will be divided, adding to what is already a seven-race programme because of the division of the open.

Astral Spirit made little impression in East Anglia last season but it was evident at Tweseldown last week that he had been transformed by Patricia Smith. With her husband, Terry, in the saddle he looks a safer bet in today's qualifier than Robert Ellwell's Adventures.

Sunnylyn, already a dual winner in a hunter chases this season, has the entries for the Audi qualifier here but will probably miss the race leaving the way open for Graham Pidgeon's Matchplay.

Navigation Aid, ridden by John Grossick, made a successful foray south from Scotland last week to win at the Old Raby Hunt Club but will find it difficult to beat Old Apple Jack and Olive Press in the Land Rover qualifier at the Haydon, where the new starting time is now 1pm.

Henrietta Knight sends Deilus, once trained by Michael Dickinson, to Contingham for John Wrenhall to ride in a division one of the open at the Cambridgeshire Harriers. Deilus looked to have great potential in 1983 but developed leg problems and has not raced since.

At the East Cornwall six of the 20 horses in the RMC qualifier are within a pound or two of each other. White Supreme, the mount of Venetia Williams, has obvious claims but on his initial outing last season found no extra in a high finish so my preference is for Rhona Cowen on Twilight Champion.

David Taylor-Leyland will be taking on Mike Felton on his home ground at Larkhill and should not be away, even handed from the United Services with Regal Pleasure, Tough And Rugged, Reynard Bow and Bronnies Taing his probable riders.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Cambridgeshire Harriers (12.15); Oxford Dragbonds (12.00); Haydon Hunt Club (1.00); United Services (1.00); Larkhill Hunt Club (1.00).

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At the East Cornwall six of the 20 horses in the RMC qualifier are within a pound or two of each other. White Supreme, the mount of Venetia Williams, has obvious claims but on his initial outing last season found no extra in a high finish so my preference is for Rhona Cowen on Twilight Champion.

David Taylor-Leyland will be taking on Mike Felton on his home ground at Larkhill and should not be away, even handed from the United Services with Regal Pleasure, Tough And Rugged, Reynard Bow and Bronnies Taing his probable riders.

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In the swing: Torrance moves up with seven-under-par 66

Masterful display from Norman puts him in commanding position

From John Woodcock, Melbourne

With the second lowest score of the day - a seven-under-par 66 - Sam Torrance moved well up the field in the Australian Masters at Huntingdale, one of the many fine courses on the Melbourne sand belt, yesterday.

As though by right, Greg Norman leads at half-way on 57, two strokes ahead of Ian Stanley, who missed a putt of four feet on the last green for a 64, which would have equalled the course record established by Bernhard Langer when he won this tournament in 1985.

Half a dozen of Europe's 1985's Ryder Cup side, that which won at the Belfry, last year - Torrance, Gordon Brand, Faldo, Langer, Woomam and Woosnam are in the field. Brand and Woosnam were both on the leader board at one stage, but never by, who had too little control of his own fortunes. Langer who took eight at the 14th, the longest hole on the course (609 yards), or Faldo.

Norman's rivals talk with awe of his game. Though yesterday in fact he dropped two strokes over the last four holes. "He is swinging the driver the way I swing an iron," Torrance said as an indication of Norman's ability to make other feel inadequate. At the 14th, Norman

hit two drivers to within eight feet of the hole - a massive 310 yards of the tee, then another 299 yards off the fairway.

There was no wind to speak of, but there is enough run on the ball for the course not to be playing its full 6,989 yards. The greens are fast and beautiful, true, and yesterday the temperature was in the 90s and there was not a cloud to be seen.

SECOND ROUND: Leading Scores (Aus unless stated): 135: G Norman, 65, 67, 137: I Stanley, 72, 65, 140: C Scott, 71, 69, 141: P Slater, 72, 69, 142: J Brand, 71, 70, 143: G Torrance, 68, 75, 144: S Woosnam, 69, 75, 145: G Faldo, 70, 72, 146: D Woosnam, 68, 75, 147: B Langer, 71, 72, 148: P McWhinney, 68, 76, 149: S Taylor, 72, 72, 150: M Clayton, 71, 74, 151: R Mclaughlin, 73, 72, 152: W Woomam, 70, 75, 153: G Brand, 72, 73, 154: N Bannister, 74, 71, 155: G Woomam, 72, 73, 156: S Torrance, 72, 73, 157: S Woosnam, 74, 73, 158: G Faldo, 73, 73, 159: B Langer, 74, 73, 160: P Slater, 75, 72, 161: I Stanley, 76, 73, 162: J Brand, 77, 72, 163: G Torrance, 78, 73, 164: S Woosnam, 77, 73, 165: G Faldo, 79, 73, 166: D Woosnam, 78, 73, 167: B Langer, 79, 73, 168: P McWhinney, 80, 73, 169: S Taylor, 81, 73, 170: M Clayton, 82, 73, 171: R Mclaughlin, 83, 73, 172: W Woomam, 84, 73, 173: G Brand, 85, 73, 174: N Bannister, 86, 73, 175: G Woomam, 87, 73, 176: S Torrance, 88, 73, 177: S Woosnam, 89, 73, 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FOOTBALL

League's safety measures helping clubs to eradicate debt

By a Special Correspondent

In the week of the eighth anniversary of the first £1 million transfer the Football League have been quick to ally fears that another bout of transfer madness, with the attendant spectre of near-bankrupt clubs, is about to break out.

Already this year a 28-year-old forward has been transferred for £750,000, an uncapped midfielder, yet to appear in the first division, has been bought for £240,000 and terms agreed for another uncapped player at £1 million.

Despite those proposed transfers (John Aldridge to Liverpool, Ian Snodin to Everton and an unsuccessful bid for Leicester's Alan Smith by Chelsea), the League are confident that they will not have to bring in new measures to protect clubs from themselves.

A League spokesman, Andy Williamson, said: "There is no prospect of a transfer spiral of the magnitude of a few years ago." Then 13 players changed hands for a total of £16.4 million in two and a half years following Trevor Francis' £1 million transfer from Birmingham to Nottingham Forest.

That spending spree was followed by the unedifying sight of clubs going into receivership, being run by accountants and defaulting on payments for players.

Since then the League has passed a series of legislative measures to ensure that clubs cannot risk such financial pitfalls again without suffering the consequences. Williamson explains: "A minimum 50 per cent of all transfer fees must be paid at the time of the transfer

and the balance must be paid in full within a year.

"Any clubs that do not pay up are charged compound interest at 5 per cent above bank rate (total rate therefore 16 per cent at present). They are also placed under a transfer embargo and cannot sign new players for a fee until the debt is cleared.

"The League acts as a clearing house and payments are monitored very closely. The punitive measures are fairly harsh and there are no plans to increase them."

In recent years Swansea, Wolves and Middlesbrough have fallen foul of the disciplinary measures. The most recent are Luton Town.

The club were embargoed for nine days after delaying a payment of £20,000 to Millwall this winter, the sum being the balance of a £40,000 fee for the midfielder player, Robert Wilson. Luton were unhappy at the transfer but paid the balance promptly.

With League regulations now preventing clubs performing the financial footwork (forming a new company and paying creditors a percentage) of the Wolverhampton Wanderers, Bristol City and others when faced with bankruptcy, some sanity has been installed in the transfer market.

Indeed this season's most expensive transfers - Snodin, Aldridge and Dave Watson's £900,000 transfer to Everton, have been financed through the extremely large fees the Merseyside clubs received for Gary Lineker and Ian Rush.

The inflationary effect of those transfers may be where any future problems lie.

Chance for Harriers on big day

By Paul Newman

John Murphy, the manager of Cheltenham Town, does not underestimate the importance of his side's FA Trophy first round tie at home against Kidderminster Harriers tomorrow.

"For one of the two clubs, it will be their last big match of the season," he said.

Neither side is in serious contention for the GM Vauxhall Conference championship, so both are anxious for Trophy success. The two rivals play only 40 miles apart and a crowd of more than 3,000 is expected for a tie in which the visitors start as clear favourites.

Kidderminster, who won both league matches over the last three months, while Cheltenham have slipped from third to 11th after failing to win any of their last eight games.

Graham Allner, the Kidderminster manager, said: "We know we can beat Cheltenham if we play to the best of our ability, but on this sort of occasion it could be a question of which side best handles the tension and nerves."

A big crowd is also expected at Barnet for today's visit of Boston United. Barnet, the Conference leaders, took their average attendance for the season to 1,756 when a 2,014 people saw their 2-1 midweek victory over Bath City.

Barry Fry, the Barnet manager, said: "Our players are not priority all season, but we're starting to enjoy our Trophy run. Some of the older players are particularly keen to do well, because if we get into the fourth round this season, we'll have the realistic chance of getting to Wembley."

Madrid (Reuters) - Miguel Muñoz, the manager of Spain, yesterday named eight Real Madrid players in his 16-man squad for next Wednesday's match against England.

With the match being played at Real's Bernabéu stadium and seven of their contingent likely to start the match, the England manager Bobby Robson would be well advised to study film of the Spanish champions' 6-1 thrashing of Cadiz in the Spanish Cup this week.

The defenders Camacho, Sanchez and Miguel Chendo, midfielders Gordillo, Gallego and Gonzalez, and the in-form forward, Butragueño, seem certain to play, with their goalkeeper, Francisco Buja, on the bench.

Four Barcelona colleagues of the England forward, Lineker, are also included, among them recalled winger Carrasco who went to Mexico for the World Cup final but did not play.

But Lineker will be relieved to note that injury keeps the Athletic Bilbao defender Andoni Goicoechea out of the squad, his place going to another Bilbao player, Andriana.

SQUAD: A Zubizarreta (Barcelona) F Buja (Real Madrid), J. Andriana (Athletic Bilbao), M. Chendo, M. Sanchez, J. Camacho (all Real Madrid), R. Fernandez (Real Madrid), J. Alonso (Sporting Girona), M. Gonzalez, R. Gallego, R. Gordillo (all Real Madrid), F. Carrasco (Real Madrid), V. Vazquez (Sevilla), E. Butragueño (Real Madrid).

Final choice
Rome (AP) - The 1990 World Cup final will be held at the Olympic stadium in Rome, which has been selected for the event, city officials announced yesterday.

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

Coventry City (10) v Chelsea (16)
Chelsea omit Spillie, despite his return to fitness, and Spackman, who has a thigh injury. Bennett could return after five games as substitute for Coventry.

Lpool (3) v Leicester (18)
Liverpool include Andriana in a squad for the first time. McMahon faces a test after a recurrence of his groin injury. D'Arny, on loan from Ipswich, makes his debut for Leicester in place of Moran.

Luton (5) v Villa (21)
If Cooper, who sustained a thigh muscle training on a synthetic surface in midweek, fails a test, Elliott, who is on the transfer list, is likely to return against his former club. Luton could be without Hill as well as Pearce because of knee ligament damage.

Manchester United (13) v Watford (8)
McGrath and Davenport are set to return to United with Garton moving over to replace Szewczak. Watford add Sterling to last week's 12.

Norwich (6) v Man C (19)
Norwich recall Barham for his first game since October in place of the injured Gordon. Manchester City omit Grealish and Simpson, but McNab, loaned to help in planning Sheffield Wednesday, is included as is again Luke, their youth team captain.

Nottingham Forest (4) v West Ham (9)
Forest are without Pearce, who is suspended; Williams takes over. West Ham, without Meese, and Hinton, have a doubt about a third centre back, Gabe, who has a knee injury. Robson will also need a test on his knee. Downshire is out with a thigh injury.

Oxford (15) v Everton (1)
Oxford, again without Sharp (ankle), are confident that Watson will recover from a dead leg and hopeful that Power will overcome knee trouble. Oxford keep the side which finished at Chelsea which means Phillips' first since his five-match ban.

QPR (14) v Newcastle (22)
Loram, who scored three goals for Rangers reserves on Thursday, may be substitute. Banister returns in place of the injured Robertson, as should Neill for Maguire. Lee is also in contention after illness. Scotty, aged 20, may have his second game in Newcastle's new defensive formation if McGroarty is unfit.

Sheffield Wednesday (12) v Arsenal (2)
Arsenal, without the suspended Anderson and Riedle, drop Nicholas in order to accommodate Rife. Thomas makes his first full appearance. Stuart Stirling and Worthington return for Wednesday after injury but May, the new signing, is not eligible.

Tottenham Hotspur (7) v Southampton (17)
Spurs will be unchanged save for the return of Hodge in place of the injured Galt. Southampton may recall Townsend in place of Dennis, who has a groin strain. Clarke must test a thigh and Hobson, cup-tied in midweek, returns to the squad.

Wimbledon (11) v Charlton Athletic (20)
Winterton (calf), Gayle (shin) and Jones (foot) face tests for Wimbledon. Morris and Gage stand by.

(Figures in parentheses indicate league position.)



Beardsley: the quick-step is preferred to the fandango

The homespun Geordie who dances to his own tune

Peter Beardsley is one Cinderella who has no wish to go to the ball unless it happens to be right at his feet at the 'palace of St James' Park and then he will dance all night.

Unlike his England partner, Lineker, he remains uncaptured by the Latin rhythm, preferring to trip the light fantastic for the less fantastic rewards of British football.

But since a foreign club has yet asked this Geordie to forsake the banks of the Tyne, no one knows for sure how homespun he really is. This we may soon learn if Beardsley, with his own version of the quick-step during England's friendly in Madrid next Wednesday.

Beardsley himself admits: "It was obviously a good move for Lineker to go to Barcelona. If I'd been in his position I might have done the same. If an offer comes along I would have to think about it."

People forget that Beardsley has already sampled life as a foreigner. He had two spells with Vancouver Whitecaps after leaving Newcastle United and Manchester United, another forgotten part during Beardsley's travels. He spent five months at Old Trafford, which included 75 minutes in the first team, before he eventually had to concede to stiff competition from two promising youngsters, Norman Whiteside and Mark Hughes.

While Vancouver may have been the sort of place people and players retire to, it helped a 20-year-old like Beardsley, under the guidance of Johnny Giles, to mature during

three years of continuous football. The long periods he spent away from Sandra, his wife, though, probably soured him of some aspects of living abroad.

Significantly, he stresses the importance of companionship in such situations, noting the benefit of having a British team made up of Lineker and Hughes, Wilkins and Hasteley and Cowans and Rideout, adding: "It'll be interesting to see how Rush gets on on his own at Juventus. I admire Brady most of all because he's done it alone."

A more introverted man than Keegan

Of course, someone else who did it alone was Beardsley's own mentor at Newcastle, Kevin Keegan, when he was with SV Hamburg. "He would have made a good manager. He was a very patient person with regard to helping the kids, Chris Waddle and I owe him a lot."

Beardsley is a more introverted type than Keegan with some refreshingly honest principles. "If Newcastle are relegated everybody seems to think I can just walk out. I've got another year to go and I'll be seeing it out unless Newcastle say otherwise."

There seems a good chance of that with Ian McFaul, the Newcastle manager, struggling to strengthen his squad with a small, mean budget and the old west stand in need of replacement. It is ridiculous to think that such obstacles should stand in

the way of a once mighty club who could still average gates of 30,000 if they were nearer the other end of the table. Beardsley adds: "If we were winning things I wouldn't give a damn about it."

As it is, a summer move, probably within the British Isles, if not within the North, looks likely. Liverpool and his former club, United, are favourites to overtake the lure of the lion with the benefits of home comforts. Beardsley, though, will be happy to improve his goal-scoring or he may not be going anywhere. He has scored just three this season compared to 19 last season.

So long as he is setting them up for Lineker, Bobby Robson, the England manager, will resist the temptation to pick Clive Allen, a less unselfish player and a pure finisher. "I'm just happy to be the one alongside Lineker," Beardsley says.

Despite injuries to the player's Achilles tendon and knee, which have caused him to miss six games (the knee will be given a rest today as Loftus Road's artificial surface, Robson insists, is not as good as the real thing), he will be ever grateful for that "lost cause" he hunted down in Tbilisi last March which led to Waddle's goal and a rare home defeat for the Soviet Union.

It proved Beardsley's ability to perform at the highest level on a foreign field - while holding a tourist visa, of course.

Clive White

SKIING

Schneider remains dominant

Megève (Reuters) - Vreni Schneider, of Switzerland, the new world champion, won her third World Cup giant slalom of the season in this French resort yesterday. Miss Schneider followed up her championship victory in Crans Montana with a comprehensive win, recording the fastest time in both legs to finish almost one second clear.

Blanca Fernandez-Ochoa, of Spain, fourth after the first leg, stepped up the pace to take second place ahead of the double world champion, Maria Walliser, of Switzerland.

Fog caused problems during the first leg and 13 of the 68 skiers withdrew after failing to master the course. In contrast, the top 30 racers who contested the second leg enjoyed bright sunshine.

Miss Schneider opened up a 0.64sec lead on the first leg and beat Miss Fernandez-Ochoa by 0.1 sec on the second run to keep her confidence high for today's slalom in Saint-Gervais.

RESULTS: 1. V Schneider (Switz), 2min 36.26sec; 2. B Fernandez-Ochoa (Spa), 2:37.21; 3. M Walliser (Switz), 2:37.44; 4. C Oester (Austria), 2:37.55; 5. E Hess (Switz), 2:37.57; 6. J. Walliser (Switz), 2:37.58; 7. H. Müller (Austria), 2:38.01; 8. E. Ester (Austria), 2:38.03; 9. M Gerg (WGer), 2:38.94; 10. M. Schmid (Austria), 2:39.27.

STANDINGS: Giant slalom: 1. Schneider, 110pts; 2. Walliser, 100; 3. Fernandez-Ochoa, 91; 4. M. Walliser, 88; 5. Hess, 85; 6. J. Walliser, 82; 7. Ester, 79; 8. Oester, 74; 9. Hess, 73; 10. Schmid, 72.

MARKSTEIN: Victory for Bojan Krizaj, of Yugoslavia, in the World Cup slalom race here today will almost certainly give him the overall slalom title.

TENNIS

Voluble Fleming wins second satellite title

Peter Fleming, of the United States, collected his second British satellite title of the month when he beat Freddie Sauer, of The Netherlands, in the final of the LTA men's indoor tournament at Telford yesterday.

Fleming, aged 32, is better known as John McEnroe's doubles partner, but he won at Queen's Club last week and made it two in a row when he edged out Sauer 1-6, 6-4, 7-5 in a match lasting two-and-three-quarter hours.

Fleming, however, was fined £20 out of his £312.50 winnings for having a point awarded against him for verbal abuse after he lost his service in the ninth game of the final set.

Sauer started well and won seven consecutive games to take the first set and build up a 2-0 lead in the second.

Memphis (AFP) - John McEnroe, beaten by Tim Mayotte in last week's United States Professional indoor championship final in Philadelphia, lost again in the third round of the National indoor championships here on Thursday night.

The fifth-seeded former world No. 1 went out in straight sets to his fellow American, John Kriek, 7-5, 6-4, 6-1. The South African-born 11th seed, was due to play Brad Gilbert of the United States, the defending champion and No. 4 seed, in last night's quarter-finals following

GOLF

Ballesteros displays rare touch

From John Ballantine

What a joy it is to see a truly great scrambler at work whether in the monthly medal at one's club or in a professional tournament as in the case of Severiano Ballesteros' 69 in the opening round of the San Diego Open.

To say that the Spaniard was outplayed by his partner, Peter Jacobsen, is not to do justice to Ballesteros' performance, quite the contrary, for a mere two strokes did not spell out a fraction of the difference between their games. Whereas Jacobsen's high-handed art is consistent and so-called strokes as regularly as Big Ben, Ballesteros was constantly adjusting his own erratic timepiece of a swing.

At the end Ballesteros lay six strokes behind the leader, George Burns, whose record nine under par 63 could, he said later, with the exception of a real New Yorker, have been a lot lower. "Jacobsen scored 67 and yesterday he and Ballesteros tackled the slightly longer South course on which the final 36 holes will be played this weekend."

Ballesteros, of course, came fresh to this event from a three month lay-off whereas Jacobsen and the rest of the 156 players, 118 of whom scored below par, have had five weeks to get their swings into good form.

Ballesteros missed more fairways than he hit, he "bent" shots around trees and over bunkers from difficult lies and, after flying approaches over greens, he would iron, he pitched back and holed out like a trooper. As the late Sid Fiedel used to say: "What a performance!"

LEADING SCORES (US unless stated): 69-69, Ballesteros (Spa), 70-69, R. P. (Spa), 71-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 72-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 73-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 74-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 75-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 76-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 77-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 78-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 79-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 80-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 81-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 82-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 83-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 84-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 85-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 86-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 87-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 88-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 89-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 90-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 91-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 92-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 93-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 94-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 95-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 96-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 97-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 98-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 99-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 100-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 101-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 102-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 103-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 104-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 105-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 106-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 107-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 108-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 109-69, J. Kriek (Afr), 110-69, J. 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SUNDAY

SUNDAY

CHOICE

Nuclear war and the garden party: Geraldine McEwan and Maureen Lipman in Event of the Season (Radio 4, 7pm)

● **A Night Out** (Ch4, 9.15pm) was Harold Pinter's first commissioned play for television, 27 years ago. It is revived as a short season of classic Armchair Theatres.

C.P.

CHANNEL 4

CHANNEL 4

- 23 **Sunday East** includes a discussion on the fashion market and the use of Indian materials. Followed by *Deewarain*. Drama series.
- 20 **The World This Week.** America's role as world policeman is examined, with a focus on the Reagan doctrine in the Middle East and central America. With Linda Chavez, Norma Cunningham, Salman Rushdie, and Eduardo Crawley.
- 20 **Worzel Gummidge.** (p) 7 **Robert the Wagoner.** Part 17 12.30 **The Tube.** (p) 2.00 **Pob's Programme** for children.
- 20 **Follow Me to Glory*** (1335) starring Fred March and Warner Baxter. First World War drama about two battle-torn British army trench officers who find themselves in love with the same girl. Directed by Howard Hawks.
- 20 **Follow by the Name of...** A comedy set in a Bombay film studios about a paper bag seller who is pursued by a girl who has been in various film sets. Starring Fulton Mackay and David Meyer. (r)
- 20 **Robinson Country.** Robert Rietman visits Berry Pomeroy in Devon. (r)
- 20 **News summary** and weather followed by *The Business Programme*. Why has wheeler-dealer Tony Cole bought a major share of South Wales's Buckley & Bruekley? Interview with French diplomat. The men's singles semifinals of the British Airways Masters.
- 20 **The World at War.** Part 11 Russian Front. (r) (Oracle)
- 20 **State of the Art.** This final programme of the series examines the theme of cultural identity.
- 20 **Armchair Theatre: A Night Out***, by Harold Pinter. Albert, a man dominated by his mother, decides to start a office party against her wishes, only to be involved in an embarrassing incident. Starring Maggie Rignall and Tom Bell. (r)
- 20 **Film: A Severed Head** (1970) starring Lee Remick, Richard Starbrough, and Ian Holm. Comedy about the sexual mores of a wine merchant, his wife, and their psychiatrist friend. Directed by Dick Clement.
- 10 **The Twilight Zone.** A tale of the supernatural. Ends

Radio 2

medium wave. Stereo
VHF
are on the hour (except
10.0pm). Headlines 7.30am.
Sports Desk 7.00am, 8.02,
5, 12.00pm, 6.02, 10.02.
10.00am Dave Bussey 6.00
ue Truvelors 7.30 Roger Royle
s Good Morning Sunday
s Melodisc for You. With the
duced by Richard Baker 11.00
ommond Carrington, with
ac 2 all-time greats, 2.00pm
ay Green 3.00 Alan Del
0.30 Black Magic (Stanley Black at
pianist) 4.30 Sing Something

Radio
59 No 2 (Rusomovsky),

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, February 19. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, February 21.

SOLUTION TO NO 1181

ACROSS: 1 Absell 4 Halter 7 Rite 8 Toms
9 Paragon 11 Heavy 12 Siegfried
Line 15 Tube 16 Pleating 20 Dressage 21
Towse 22 Vialda 23 Titled

DOWN: 1 Approps 2 Sitar 3 Lono 4
Heal 5 Turpani 6 Ratty 10 Gaffie 11:
Hedge 13 Extreme 14 Egghead 15
Tuddy 17 Fleet 18 Natal 19 Dais

*The winners of prize concise NO 1176 are:
Mrs M. E. Menzies, Trundle View Close,
Barnham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex; and
A. E. Riley, 110 Reddawn Road, Coulsdon,
Surrey.*

On long waves (a) **6.00 News** 5.55am **Shopping** 6.00 News 6.15am **Weather** 6.10 **Farming** 6.15am **5.45 Prayer** for the Day 6.30am **5.45 Travel** 7.00 **Today** and **7.00, 8.00 Today's News** 7.25 **Spot 7.30, 8.30 News** 7.55 **Today's News** 8.47 **Today's Summary** 7.49 in **Perspective** 7.55, **8.00 News** 8.15am **5.45** **Weekend** 8.35 **Yesterday in Pictures** 8.50 **News** 9.00 **Spot on 4** 9.30 **Breakaway**, **Radio 1's** travel and leisure programme, 9.30 **News**; **Loose** 9.45am **5.45** **Spot on 4** 9.50 **Spot on 4** 10.00 **Spot on 4** 10.10 **Spot on 4** 10.20 **Spot on 4** 10.30 **Spot on 4** 10.40 **Spot on 4** 10.50 **Spot on 4** 11.00 **Spot on 4** 11.10 **Spot on 4** 11.20 **Spot on 4** 11.30 **Spot on 4** 11.40 **Spot on 4** 11.50 **Spot on 4** 12.00 **Spot on 4** 12.10 **Spot on 4** 12.20 **Spot on 4** 12.30 **Spot on 4** 12.40 **Spot on 4** 12.50 **Spot on 4** 1.00 **Spot on 4** 1.10 **Spot on 4** 1.20 **Spot on 4** 1.30 **Spot on 4** 1.40 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WORLD SERVICE SUNDAY

11:00 Newsweek (until 5:30) 7:00 News 7:05
First-Four Hours 7:30 From Our Own
Correspondent 7:55 Winegrower 8:00
The Music of the World 8:05
Sportsman's Yarns 8:05 News 8:05 Review
British Press 8:15 Science in Action
8:20 The Music of the World 8:25 News 8:27
1st Story 8:35 Classical Record Re-
lease 8:35 Sunday Service 11:00 News
11:05 The Music of the World 11:10
Correspondent (until 12:00) 12:00
of the Week Inmate Exchanges
12:05 The Music of the World 12:10
News Roundup 1:45 Sand Jones Re-
view Show including at 2:00 News 2:30
The Music of the World 2:35
and the Classics 3:00 Radio Memorial
3:05 The Music of the World 3:10
Correspondent 4:15 Musician of Weeks: Alexan-
der 4:15 Pushkin 4:45 Letter From America
4:50 Radio Reflection (until 5:15) 5:15
News 5:15 5:20 First-Four Hours 5:30
Review 5:45 The Music of the World 5:55
1st Story 6:00 The Music of the World 6:05
1st Story 6:10 News 6:15
K Choice 6:30 News 6:35 Financial Re-
view 6:40 Reflections 10:45 Sports Roundup
10:50 News 11:00 Correspondent 11:10
News 11:15 News 11:20 Not So Long
12:00 News 12:05 News About Britain
12:10 News 12:15 News 12:20 News
1:00 News 1:05 News 1:10 The European
Newsline 1:45 Pierre Fourrier 2:00
News 2:05 News 2:10 News 2:15
News 2:20 News 2:25 News 2:30
Choice 2:30 Science in Action
2:35 News 2:40 News About Britain 3:15
News 3:20 News 3:25 News 3:30
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Christmas Oratorio, Part 5
NW 24B; Prokofiev, Ten Pieces,
97 (Bellet: Cantata No. 1)
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Musuzuko, Piano Concerto No.
G major, 10-30 Music Weekly.
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February 14-20, 1987

SATURDAY

A weekly guide
to leisure, entertainments
and the arts

True Love In So Many Words

If love, as Dryden said, is a malady without a cure, then for a century or so the greetings card manufacturers have been making healthy profits from false remedies. Today

The Times offers its own selection of Valentine's Day verses: here are the poignant memories of Lady Wilson's lost amour, the agonized analysis of the lovers' state from Jill Bennett, the homespun fidelity of Frederick Forsyth, Libby Purves's note on the kitchen table. Lord Dudley has a softer pen when wooing his wife than when coupletting Princess Michael of Kent; Bob Hoskins writes as he might deliver an Oscar-winning speech; Laurie Lee is content to work with the traditional tools of earth, sun and spring

THE EARL OF DUDLEY

Who am I? Would you like to know my name,
Who sends this billet-doux as Valentine?
Am I a suitor, or forgotten flame?
Am I a faintheart who's resigned to pine
Unnoticed, or your lover? I am he
Whose love's most true and you'd most
love to see.

BARBARA CARTLAND

HE: I told the sun to shine for you,
The flowers to give their scent to you.
The bells to whisper words of love,
The birds to sing in the sky above:
The whole world knows that you are mine,
My most adorable Valentine.

SHE: Love is lightning, a tempest, a shock,
Love is invincible, Love is a rock.
Love is soft music, the sweetness of flowers
Love is Divine, and Heaven is ours.

CLEMENT FREUD, MP

Nigel's fat and Geoffrey's boring,
Havers sick and Kinnock waffles,
Steel is busy, Owen's tetchy,
Maggie isn't one of mine.
Baker sizzles with aggression,
Currie fills me with depression,
Will you be my Valentine?

LIBBY PURVES

Had we but world enough and time,
This note would be a Valentine.
Since married life is what we have,
It's just to remind you to bring home the
haddock and the Sanilav.

BOB HOSKINS

I am what the world has made me
And yet, a brief interlude of tenderness
Can transform this twisted soul
Into a creature of such magnificence
Even I am astonished at the splendour
Of my gratitude.

COMPILED BY CHRISTOPHER WILSON

Die Zauberflöte
by Mozart

Conductor
Peter Schneider
Cast includes
Mikael Melbye
Robin Leggate
Angela Maria Blasi
Penelope Walmisley-Clark
Robert Lloyd
Robert Teat
Paul Crook (19 Feb)
David Wilson-Johnson
Meryl Drower



Feb 19* 24 27*
Mar 2* 4
at 7.00pm
*English Starters
Tickets
£2.00-£10.00
Royal Opera House
01-240 1066 / Credit Cards



BOB GELDOF

When the ceaseless grinding
Of these bones is stilled
Rigid lay them
In some muddy mound
And place when they are ready
Yours on top of mine
So bleaching first
Then crumbling
They make in chalky dust
A joining more profound
And more united than in lust

ROALD DAHL

The Prime Minister cried with a squeal,
"This card says, 'I love you for real',
How very exciting!
I know this handwriting,
The damn thing was written by Neill!

LAURIE LEE

In you, today, I hear the first note of spring,
Feel the earth's turning towards the sun.

TOM SHARPE

One of the pleasures growing old
Is never to be falsely told
By fearsome women long in tooth
That love survives a misspent youth.
And I am theirs and they are mine
Upon some ghastly Valentine.

KENNETH ROBINSON

The Bard Revisited, or from
a Valentine to a Shrew
Dear Valentine, my only spouse,
My ox, my horse,
My barn, my house,
Even in our daily battles
You're still my fuel,
My goods, my chattels -
And so, my Shrew,
My ox, my horse,
Don't take that Liberation course.

Hard times in heart land

These are bleak times for the writers of Valentine verses. Once it was scarcely thinkable to put a heart in the post without a poem attached, but most people now prefer a shorter, sharper message and the poets are suffering accordingly.

In London card-makers like, Gordon Fraser and the Medici Society restrict themselves to a single line of greeting which their own staff compose. Romance still flourishes further north, but even there the lines are as likely to come from the makers' "verse bank", or reserve of old poems, as to be freshly commissioned. Nor are the rates generous: the top price is £1 a line and one company pays only 50p.

In such circumstances, versifiers like 65-year-old Mrs Marion Fidler, of Wigan, Lancashire, have to struggle to find a market. She takes an unsentimental view of her work: "I must have done thousands and thousands of verses," she confesses. "You can either do them or you can't, it's not something that can be taught."

She began writing them at school where she received a firm grounding in 19th-century English literature, and she



Jiggins sends two Valentines: a Victorian engraving

has continued ever since, undistracted by marriage, motherhood, and a career in the accountancy office in Wigan Town Hall. "They just come to me when I'm moving around. You can think of them when you're thinking of something else."

And so while she briskly calculated the cold figures of rates and rents, one part of her mind was occupied with thoughts such as these:

From the garden of love
I pick flowers for you.
Red roses to tell you
My love's warm and true.
Forget me not say
I won't forget you,
For you'll be my Valentine
All my life through.

FREDERICK FORSYTH

I prefer things semantic
To matters romantic
Tho' I'll clock pretty birds far and near,
But I'm true (on my life)
To the trouble and strife
So she's my Valentine every year.

JILL BENNETT

I don't believe in love.
Life, affection, yes,
Love with reason - yes,
Love without passion, yes!
But I married for love.
I only fell in love with love.
Love without reason
Love with passion
How can I believe in love?

ALICE THOMAS ELLIS

Men love women
Women love children
Children love hamsters
And hamsters don't love anyone.

BILLY CONNOLLY

May the moon rise tonight as it's risen before,
And cast silver beams on your small

cottage door.
Goodnight, dearest dear, and sweetest repose,
Lie on your back and you won't squash
your nose.

JOHN WELLS

A Young Lady Replies to a St Valentine's Day
Greeting from an Anonymous Lover.
Will I be your Valentine?
Absolutely, Monkey mine,
Constant as the Stars that shine;
Where, though, will our Limbs entwine?
Are you hideous or divine?
Any clue, you randy Swine,
More precise than N.W.9?

Hard times in heart land



Jiggins sends two Valentines: a Victorian engraving

Valentine verses occupy only a small proportion of her output. Mrs Fidler must satisfy card-makers who order in batches - a dozen different verses suitable for ruby weddings, a dozen for teenage birthdays, and perhaps two dozen assorted for the Spring Collection, comprising Valentine's Day, Mothering Sunday and Father's Day.

If she is lucky she may also be asked for some inspirational, poems with a message such as her favourite which begins:

When you stretch out your hand
To catch at the stars
Remember the flowers at
your feet...

MARY WILSON

We have not met for years and years
Yet, tho' we said goodbye with tears
I often feel your hand in mine
My dear, remembered, Valentine.

A night in Mayfair

A few telling lines in verse for a Valentine card could win you a luxury night for two in Mayfair worth £1,000. Send your entry (a maximum of four lines) to The Times Valentine Verse Competition, PO BOX 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

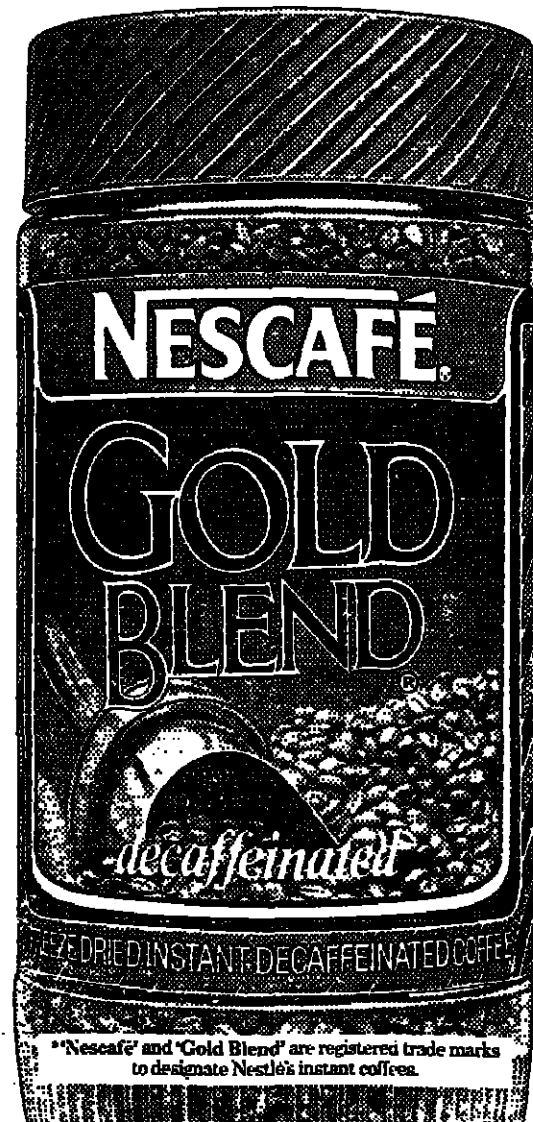
The closing date is next Thursday, February 19. The winner will be announced on February 28. The competition will be judged by a panel chaired by Philip Howard, Literary Editor of The Times. The author of the winning entry will be entertained to a five-course gourmet meal for two at London's Ninety Park Lane restaurant, winner of a coveted Michelin star. A de luxe suite will also be reserved for a night at the Grosvenor House Hotel where champagne, flowers and chocolates will be provided.

SATURDAY

Classic Beatles
and Stones tracks
as you have never
heard them
before, Page 43

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decaffeinated
coffee tastes
as good as
Nescafé Gold Blend.*



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Andre Linklater

TRAVEL 1

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Telephone 01-228 9321

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Storms and pleasure

Hurricanes apart, Mauritius is an ideal holiday destination — hot, beautiful and cheap. Diane Spencer reports



Enterprise and empire: Mauritian beach sellers and (below) the view from Government House



TRAVEL NOTES

Club Med offer 12 days from £1,310 to £1,345, depending on the season. This includes flights on Air Mauritius, full board and lots of sports. Club Med, 106-108 Brompton Road, London SW3 1JL. Trou aux Biches, St Geran, Touessrock and La Plouze are also excellent hotels. The Mauritius Government Tourist Office, 49 Conduit Street, London W1 2FB (01-437 7508) has details.

clad men and women are a cheerful, if footsore, band who welcome visitors to their lake-side spectacle. Villages en route hang out bunting to greet them and hand out refreshments.

Chinese New Year, Corpus Christi, Diwali — the Buddhist festival of the dead — and the fearsome Hindu Cavadee festival, when devotees go into

a trance and pierce their bodies with needles, all add to the richness of Mauritian life. This cultural legacy is reflected in the island's cooking. There are bewildering displays of local and French food at Club Med and superb fish and fruit everywhere. Prices are well below the British. Wine is often reconstituted from imported concentrates, which

Early birds go free

TRAVEL NEWS

Sealink British Ferries is giving away free cross-Channel ferry tickets to motorists who book their peak season sailings before the end of March.

Passengers who buy full-fare tickets for journeys between June 25 and September 6 qualify for a free 60-hour excursion for two people plus car. The free tickets can be used at any time between September 7 and November 30. The offer applies to cars of any length but not to minibuses or motorized caravans. Sealink has also confirmed that it will be re-introducing car ferry services from Portsmouth to Cherbourg from April 15, with daily overnight sailing during the peak season. A 60-hour excursion fare for two adults plus car is available at £63 in the off-peak season. Information from travel agents or direct from Sealink (01-634 8122).

Extra flights and cut-price holidays over the Easter period are being run by the specialist operator Magic of Italy. The flights will operate to most major Italian destinations and breaks of three nights or more will be available. The company is giving £30 reductions on all five-night holidays in Sorrento, Positano, Amalfi and Ravello departing on April 11, and nine-night villa holidays in Ravello will be available at the one-week price, which ranges between £239 and £269. Information: 01-743 9555.

Classic hotels

The TravelScene group is offering tailor-made breaks to some of the world's most exclusive hotels in its new Classic Holidays programme. They include the Pierre in New York, the George V in Paris, the Imperial in Vienna and Gleneagles in Scotland. All the overseas breaks are based on scheduled flights, but those to Paris and Venice can also be combined with a journey on the Venice-Simplon Orient Express. Typical prices are between £465 and £595 for a three-night stay at the Grand in Florence or £290 to £370 for a weekend at the Amstel in Amsterdam. Information: 01-436 7814.

Philip Ray

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Book now, Summer Holidays or Winter/Spring getaway breaks in our award-winning Country Hotel, amidst beautiful Dales National Park. Four Poster beds, fine cuisine, Broc Tel or SAE.

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Charming, family-run Georgian House, set in own grounds, offering first food and good wine. Central location and open fire and bedrooms with en-suite facilities.

Complete tranquility in unspoilt Dales village in the area of outstanding natural beauty. Ideal for 3 weeks, 10 days, 5 days and 2 days.

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YORK

Self-catering, new town house, 100 sq ft, 10 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, 10 en-suites, 10 fireplaces, 10 gardens, 10 parking spaces, 10 carports, 10 garages, 10 sheds, 10 outbuildings, 10 swimming pools, 10 tennis courts, 10 golf courses, 10 country clubs, 10 hotels, 10 restaurants, 10 bars, 10 pubs, 10 clubs, 10 societies, 10 associations, 10 organizations, 10 institutions, 10 corporations, 10 companies, 10 firms, 10 businesses, 10 industries, 10 professions, 10 occupations, 10 careers, 10 jobs, 10 vacancies, 10 opportunities, 10 prospects, 10 futures, 10 hopes, 10 dreams, 10 aspirations, 10 ambitions, 10 goals, 10 dreams, 10 aspirations, 10 ambitions, 10 goals.

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Beautiful 400 year old farm-house in lovely setting. Superb views. Bed, breakfast & evening meal. Attractive self-catering cottages also available. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 bedrooms. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 bathrooms. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 en-suites. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 fireplaces. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 gardens. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 parking spaces. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 carports. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 garages. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 sheds. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 outbuildings. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 swimming pools. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 tennis courts. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 golf courses. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 country clubs. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 hotels. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 restaurants. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 bars. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 pubs. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 clubs. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 societies. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 associations. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 organizations. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 institutions. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 corporations. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 companies. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 firms. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 businesses. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 industries. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 professions. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 occupations. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 careers. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 jobs. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 vacancies. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 opportunities. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 prospects. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 futures. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 hopes. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 dreams. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 aspirations. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 ambitions. 2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10 goals.

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Self-catering, new town house, 100 sq ft, 10 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, 10 en-suites, 10 fireplaces, 10 gardens, 10 parking spaces, 10 carports, 10 garages, 10 sheds, 10 outbuildings, 10 swimming pools, 10 tennis courts, 10 golf courses, 10 country clubs, 10 hotels, 10 restaurants, 10 bars, 10 pubs, 10 clubs, 10 societies, 10 associations, 10 organizations, 10 institutions, 10 corporations, 10 companies, 10 firms, 10 businesses, 10 industries, 10 professions, 10 occupations, 10 careers, 10 jobs, 10 vacancies, 10 opportunities, 10 prospects, 10 futures, 10 hopes, 10 dreams, 10 aspirations, 10 ambitions, 10 goals.

KNOLL HOTEL

Conveniently located in the heart of the city, Knoll Hotel offers a range of accommodation from single rooms to large suites. The hotel is a modern building with a central location and excellent facilities. For more details, contact the hotel on 01-631 1221.

NEAR SAWREY

SAWREY HOUSE COUNTRY HOTEL

Family friendly, set in 10 acres of beautiful grounds. The hotel is a modern building with a central location and excellent facilities. For more details, contact the hotel on 01-631 1221.

PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL

Set in the heart of the city, the Prince of Wales Hotel offers a range of accommodation from single rooms to large suites. The hotel is a modern building with a central location and excellent facilities. For more details, contact the hotel on 01-631 1221.

CONISTON VALLEY

Set in the heart of the city, the Coniston Valley Hotel offers a range of accommodation from single rooms to large suites. The hotel is a modern building with a central location and excellent facilities. For more details, contact the hotel on 01-631 1221.

ECCLE RIGGS MANOR

Set in the heart of the city, the Eccle Riggs Manor Hotel offers a range of accommodation from single rooms to large suites. The hotel is a modern building with a central location and excellent facilities. For more details, contact the hotel on 01-631 1221.

HILLTHWAITE HOUSE

Set in the heart of the city, the Hillthwaite House Hotel offers a range of accommodation from single rooms to large suites. The hotel is a modern building with a central location and excellent facilities. For more details, contact the hotel on 01-631 1221.

BORRAN PARK HOTEL

Set in the heart of the city, the Borran Park Hotel offers a range of accommodation from single rooms to large suites. The hotel is a modern building with a central location and excellent facilities. For more details, contact the hotel on 01-631 1221.

LAKE DISTRICT

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THE HORSESHOE GUEST HOUSE

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EDEN VALLEY

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TRAVEL 2

Wuthering winds in Brontë country

A midwinter wind spiralled through the cobbled streets of Haworth, a de-ranged untamed wind from the moors. It was early: car parks were empty, shopkeepers yawned as they laid out the delectables of their trade, the air was still fatty with last night's chip butties. There was nothing fanciful or smug about the place. It wasn't snug, either: you wouldn't want to linger over-long — just long enough.

At least Haworth impeccably fitted the part. It fitted grimly into a grim part of Yorkshire, but an immensely evocative part. For this is Brontë country and you are not allowed to forget it for a moment: there's B&B at Heathcliff Cottage, coffee and oven-baked cakes at Heathcliff Cafe, Brontë tea towels, cuddly toys from the Land of Gondals.

They really started something, the sisters Charlotte, Emily and Anne, to say nothing of brother Branwell. They started, posthumously, a Brontë industry which has little to do with letters, the inveterate lands of Angria and Gondal, or *Jane Eyre*. It has to do with brass and there's 'twi wrong wi' that. Without brass Haworth would be where it was when the sisters were scribbling away at the parsonage — down in the dumps.

In 1850 41 per cent of the local population died under six years of age, while the life expectancy of the survivors was 25 years. Open sewage swilled through the village; the water supply coursed through the Revd Patrick Brontë's graveyard. Dysentery was endemic, so too tuberculosis, which claimed Emily in 1848 and Anne five months later. The atmosphere was cruel enough to spawn the master of *Wuthering Heights*.

Brontë Parsonage at Haworth attracts 2,000 visitors on a busy day; they come to see the Revd Patrick's spectacles, a dress worn by Charlotte, the pet bulldog Keeper's collar, the sofa on which Emily died, tiny writing in tiny Gondal books. The curator, Dr Juliet Barker, believes that *Wuthering Heights* merits a place among the world's 10 best novels; she also believes that "on quiet wet days the



Raw nature: Wuthering Heights near Haworth, supposedly the Wuthering Heights of the book

spirit generated by his family of genius seeps through."

Apart from a brief spell (less than a year) which Charlotte and Emily spent at boarding school in Belgium, the sisters were committed to Haworth; the parsonage and the moors were their world. Angria and Gondal, *Jane Eyre*, *Agnes Grey*, *Wuthering Heights*, were not conceived through experience but through imagination; and if we accept that the parsonage itself offered little stimulus, that

leaves the moors. With a nature forged upon the moor, Emily was, according to the villagers of her day, "loose and boyish... she slouched over... whistling to her dogs and taking long strides".

Over Haworth Moor, wading Staden Beck, to Stanbury Moor, crossing the Pennine Way; that's the way she would have gone. So I set off after her, the summer chill inhospitable, the heather episcopalian purple all the way. Somewhere out there was

Ponden Hall (Thrushcross Grange in *Heights*) and Wuthering Heights (supposedly Wuthering Heights).

I have walked this sort of country before, not in the way of hikers, but unscheduled and unceremoniously, stopping if I felt like it, sprawling by a stream, with time to stare or eat a sandwich. With time also to think about the people who live here, hewing out a livelihood.

This land, this precious lot, has made them what they are.

just as one day it will kill them; because it was hard to come by and they will never give up. They own their land; yet one could say it is the other way round — that the land owns them. And when they die, the grass, the stone walls, the moors and the community will not have been lessened by their touch.

Emily gave Heathcliff this deadly sense of ownership; much good it did him and much good he did anyone else. But he wasn't a gentle yeoman; he even thought of himself as "something too horrible to live under a decent roof".

Back in the valley I saw an advertisement about "bygone days when travel was a stately progress — at old-fashioned prices", so at Oxenhope I boarded the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, having bought a round ticket for the old-fashioned price of £1.90.

The magic of steam had not thus far enfolded me in its embrace. I have never been a train buff and, to my lasting shame, I have tended to patronize those who were. Now I began to understand. It was like re-entering a submerged world of penny chocolate bars, Veno's Cough Cure and "I Speak Your Weight" machines.

Passengers took an interest in the engine, photographing it, jotting down its number in notebooks. When it moved it made proper chuff-chuff noises, emitting smoke and snort. The scenery wasn't up to much, too many dark satanic mills for my liking, but where we passed fields they were like domestic safari parks, cows and sheep bolting across the veld like rhinos and impala. When we pulled into Damems, creaking like a ship at sea, I felt I could have stayed a month.

Not only is Damems the smallest station in the country, it also has a beautiful garden, ablaze with curly-headed blooms like floral Shirley Temples, and the station master was immaculate in gold braid, sporting a white carnation in his buttonhole. Standing beside a milk churn, he waved and whistled us off, as courteously as Raleigh laying his cloak.

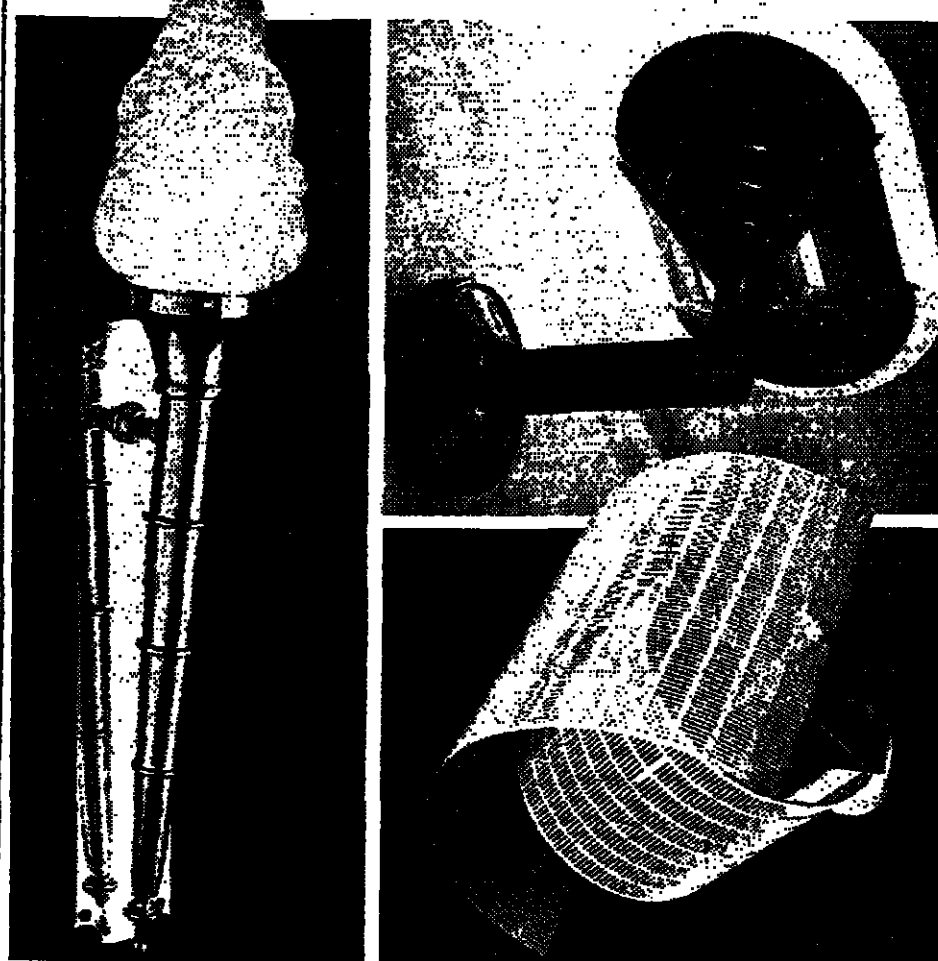
Michael Watkins

TRAVEL NOTES

The Halifax area is not rich in hotel excellence, an exception being Holdsworth House, Holdsworth, Halifax, Yorkshire (0422 240024). Double room with breakfast £59; suites £75. Good food. The hotel is situated about 10 minutes' drive from Haworth and the moors.

Further information from Yorkshire & Humberside Tourist Board, 512 The Westgate House, York YO2 2HF (0904 707961).

SHOPPING



All lit up: left, large "Flambeau" brass reproduction bracket, 117cm high, with glass "Flambeau" shade, £22.50 from Christopher Wray. Top right, "Vega" uplight in anthracite grey moulded aluminium with glass detail, £162.95 from Mr Light. Right, Shogun Pareto by Artemide, £159, in white painted metal with adjustable diffusers in perforated plate.

The lighting's on the wall

Lighting has a surprisingly lacklustre image compared with other areas of design-conscious home decoration. Yet a visit to any specialist lighting shop proves that plenty of sparky — even bizarre — lighting concepts are available in shapes and styles to suit all tastes.

With uplighters, downlighters, spots, tracks and task lights all vying for attention, it's easy to be dazzled by sheer volume of choice. But, if you're looking for an effective way of controlling the pattern and level of light you favour living with, wall lighting offers an imaginative solution. Decorative yet functional, designs are soothingly classical, strikingly modern and deliciously frivolous.

Anyone who feels at a complete loss when it comes to planning creative lighting schemes may well benefit from the specific advice of a consultancy like Lighting Design. The various effects of different lighting schemes are dramatically illustrated at their Chelsea showroom and, if required, the company will send a consultant to proffer ideas and advice at your home, draw up schematic plans and supervise installation.

It's not a cheap service, costing around £600 to plan the lighting for a two-bedroom flat and between £800 and



Tiffany-style "Yacht" (left) in hand-made leaded glass, £55 from Christopher Wray's Tiffany Shop. Bunch of green plastic grapes by Bananaz, £40 from The Last Detail.



ADDRESS BOOK

Artemide, 17 Neal Street, London WC2 (01-240 2552). Christopher Wray, 600 King's Road, London SW6 (01-736 8434). Christopher Wray's Tiffany Shop, 583 King's Road, London SW6 (01-736 8434). Heals, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-636 1666). The Last Detail, 341 King's Road, London SW3 (01-351 6294). Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (01-734 1234). Lighting Design, 1 Woodfall Court, Smith Street, London SW3 (01-730 8585). London Lighting, 135 Fulham Road, London SW3 (01-583 3512). Mr Light, 279 King's Road, London SW3 (01-352 8398).

Nicole Swengley

Cheques Department, Trusthouse Forte, 12 Sherwood Street, London W1V 7RD (01-437 7788).

It seems appropriate that an art student's concept should find its way on to a new range of stationery aimed primarily at the student market. Antony Grey's winning entry in the 1986 W.H. Smith Award for Commercial Design, presented annually to a student from Swindon College's School of Art and Design, now emblazons files, ringbinders, notebooks and pencil cases with its colourful pipes and tubes design.

Chinamatch offers a useful service linking anyone searching for additions or replacements of dinner and tea services with those who have china in discontinued patterns

which they wish to sell. Clients' requirements are stored for a small fee on a register, and when a match seems possible Chinamatch verifies details (but doesn't negotiate prices). For details, please send 60x4in sse to Chinamatch, Little Trapstile, Lastleigh, Devon TQ13 9TE.

Since the introduction of Dylon's new Color Fun fabric painting pens, graffiti has never looked so good. They work on all types of fabrics, giving permanent results without the material losing its softness, and come in eight shades — yellow, orange, royal blue, purple, dark brown and black. The pens cost £1.35 each from leading department stores and Dylon run a helpline for enquiries on 01-650 4801 (office hours).

Around the US for 1p per mile

Until the end of March you can sample one of the best bargains yet in North America: air travel. The major US airlines — TWA, Pan Am, Delta, Northwest and American Airlines — are selling cut-price winter Airpasses to overseas visitors and the deals in question allow you to fly around America for as little as 1p per mile — easily the cheapest air travel in the world.

Typically you pay £96 for a minimum of four flights. Two

additional flights will cost you £25 a time or, in other words, you can buy a total of six flights for £148. I must stress that £25 really does buy you any flight — irrespective of whether you take the 191-mile New York-Boston hop or the 2,606-mile coast-to-coast Boston-Los Angeles stage.

So, for example, a £98 Airpass with TWA lets you fly New York-Seattle-St Louis-New Orleans-New York, while splashing out and paying £148 would let you cover

FARE DEALS

Each Airpass has its own selling points. For example, American/Pan Am/TWA offer lots of non-stop flights, ideal for coast-to-coast travel. (However, note that only one transcontinental round trip is permitted.) Conversely, Delta/Northwest offer extensive

coverage of certain regions.

Most carriers allow you to make cut-price side trips from the US mainland to Mexico/Caribbean/Hawaii, thus enabling you to grab some sunshine.

Airpasses can only be purchased in conjunction with a return transatlantic ticket. The first US domestic flight on your itinerary must be booked at least seven days ahead but the rest can be left "open dated". The minimum validity is seven days, the maximum 60 days, and note that passes and side trips cannot be used at peak times like public holidays.

Some sectors — like those to the Caribbean — cannot be flown at weekends. Some airlines will allow you to start travel before March 31, while others insist you complete travel by that date. Unless visiting the northeast "frostbelt", it's best to arrive/depart through a "sunbelt" gateway to minimize delays caused by bad weather. And as US airports are spread out, with each airline tending to have its own terminal, it makes sense to fly the same carrier throughout, particularly when making connections.

TWA: Cost as above. Optional side trips: New York or Miami to TWA Caribbean destinations for £189; LA/Honolulu for £130; Seattle/Anchorage £118. All return travel.

Pan Am: Cost £24 per flight. Minimum four, maximum

six. Side trips from Miami to Caribbean destinations like Barbados, Port of Spain and/or Mexico cost \$99 (£66) one-way.

Northwest: Same cost as Pan Am. Typical side trips allowed: LA/Honolulu for \$198 (£136) return; Miami/Cayman Islands \$198 (£136) return.

Delta: Minimum four, maximum eight flights possible at £59 (£39) a time. Delta's forte is extensive coverage of the southern states via its Atlanta gateway.

American: The cheapest Airpass deal of the lot. Four coupons cost £79 with two additional ones on offer at £19.75. But American does not offer a side trip option and, for some, its Dallas gateway may prove inconvenient.

Alex McWhirter
The author is travel editor of Business Traveller

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one 7 eighty two 7 eighty three 7 eighty four 7 eighty five 7 eighty six 7 eighty seven 7 eighty eight 7 eighty nine 7 ninety 7 ninety one 7 ninety two 7 ninety three 7 ninety four 7 ninety five 7 ninety six 7 ninety seven 7 ninety eight 7 ninety nine 7 one hundred 7 one hundred one 7 one hundred two 7 one hundred three 7 one hundred four 7 one hundred five 7 one hundred six 7 one hundred seven 7 one hundred eight 7 one hundred nine 7 one hundred ten 7 one hundred eleven 7 one hundred twelve 7 one hundred thirteen 7 one hundred fourteen 7 one hundred fifteen 7 one hundred sixteen 7 one hundred seventeen 7 one hundred eighteen 7 one hundred nineteen 7 one hundred twenty 7 one hundred twenty one 7 one hundred twenty two 7 one hundred twenty three 7 one hundred twenty four 7 one hundred twenty five 7 one hundred twenty six 7 one hundred twenty seven 7 one hundred twenty eight 7 one hundred twenty nine 7 one hundred thirty 7 one hundred thirty one 7 one hundred thirty two 7 one hundred 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EATING OUT

Grub for urban tweedies

There are a number of shops, most of them at the confluence of Chelsea with Fulham, that peddle a sartorial Englishness of a particularly ersatz kind, a parodic Englishness of tweeds and mole-skin, braces and brogues.

It derives from Kenneth More in *Genevieve* and from a dismal nostalgia for slobbering dogs, log fires and open cars in British Racing Green. Those are the sources, and in the current version they are camped up with fussy negligence — cuff buttons left undone, braces hanging to the backs of the knees and so on. The shop assistants in these rarefied outposts of the rag trade tend to be (literally) low-browed ex-public schoolboys with aspirantly cavalry regiment accents.

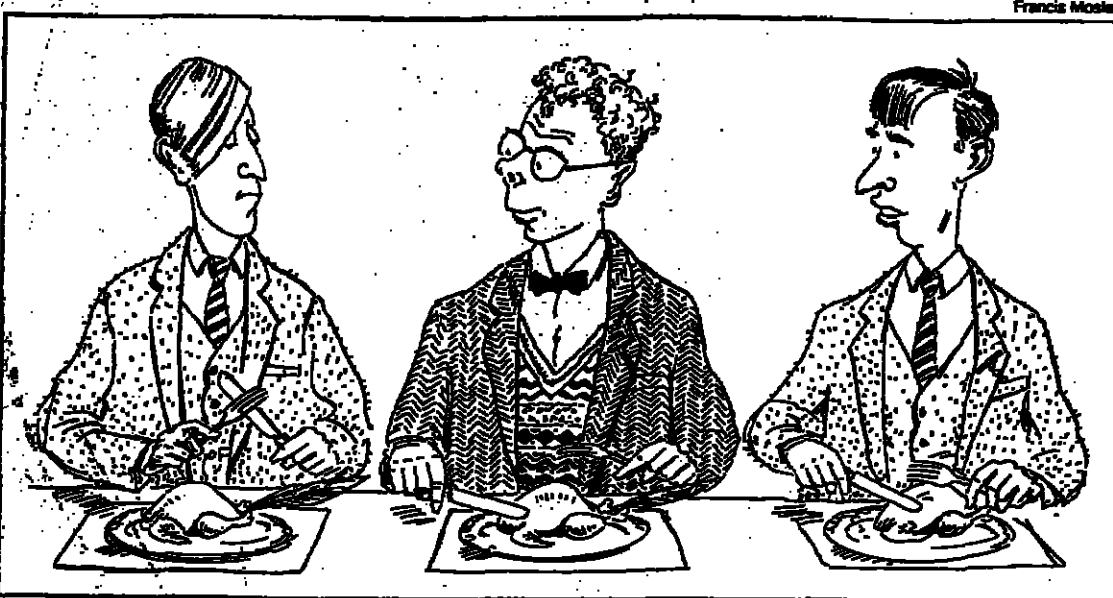
The rag trade and the restaurant trade, being kindred fields of endeavour, it was bound to pass that a restaurant would open that was the catering analogue of such establishments, flogging a similar myth.

The Launceston Place Restaurant has got in first. It is the sort of place where anyone who asked for the toilet rather than for the loo or the lavatory would be politely directed down the stairs and then mentally sniggered at behind his or her back — the vocabulary snobishness of low-browed ex-public schoolboys borders on the tyrannical.

The restaurant is on the corner of the street whose name it has appropriated, a pretty sylvan street of early Victorian stuccoed villas — a setting that is, doubtless, just the ticket for such an enterprise. The premises form a wedge, a shape whose awkwardness has been mitigated by architectural cleverness and artful lighting. Their decoration, on the other hand, is blatant in its appeal to the terminally English.

The walls are hung with prints, architectural fantasies and 19th-century genre paintings. The illusion is that of "old" careless near-impudence, sound yeomanry, nothing flash. The reality is, of course, an impression of "the past" — just a generalized yesterday.

A new breed of restaurant caters for an old breed of Englishman — or his aspiring present-day counterpart. Jonathan Meades sampled two of the species which echo times past with varying degrees of success



Now, what food matches this *mise-en-scène*? One option, thankfully resisted here, is the school of toponymic folklore — Kettering Posset, Scunthorpe Dimpling etc. even more classy combinations, Hertsmereaux, Wibs and the like, don't get a look in. No, the cooking is as straightforwardly mid-Channel as you could wish — like *le style anglais*, it is cartoon traditional.

So there is roast pheasant with bread sauce. Roasting is easily the crassest way of cooking this dry bird but the English, in their wisdom, persist with it. And this place manages to achieve a passable moistness, the bread sauce, served in a nancy little pot, is dull.

Good quality char-grilled beef (more or less trad) gets an unskillfully composed wine sauce. An agreeably light tart of lobster and spinach, which owes little to France

or to England, is marred by an over-rich and underdone pastry case. More underdone pastry, of the Eastern Mediterranean filo variety, surrounds a poached pear, which is otherwise unexceptionable.

The English cheeses are excellent examples of what can be done in this country despite the dicta of the Milk Marketing Board. The wine (French) and espresso coffee (Italian) are all right. The service (English, as I say, and how) is all off-the-peg charm, which is better than off-the-peg surliness but just as robotic. The bill: £69 for two.

Wilson's is less than two miles west of Launceston Place. It is on the corner of Shepherd's Bush Road, which is famous for being the road from Shepherd's Bush Green to Hammersmith Broadway, and of Elythe Road, which is famous for being home to Arthur Daley's car

emporium in *Minder*. This near centrality notwithstanding, it's the sort of joint that's bound to be considered a "neighbourhood restaurant", but quite what neighbourhood is moot given its proximity to the Westway and thus to Maida Vale, St John's Wood, Marylebone etc. It is certainly good enough to attract all London.

The look of the place is that of a stage-designer's version of Arts and Crafts, an inoffensive stew of stencilling, bare boards and chairs that are good for you. But the cooking is endlessly, effortlessly right — which means that tremendous effort goes into it and that the apparent gimmickry of some of the dishes is not the result of wanton novelty but of the essays of a gifted cook who has a palate as well as a great technical prowess.

This cook is called Robert Hilton

and the dishes he makes up are so good that the aptness of their components, however odd, conjure happy marriages. Pike with a sauce made from cream and goat's cheese sounds, on the page, quite offensive — a case of fish drowned by over-attention. Mr Hilton's assessment of just how much a pike can take is spot on.

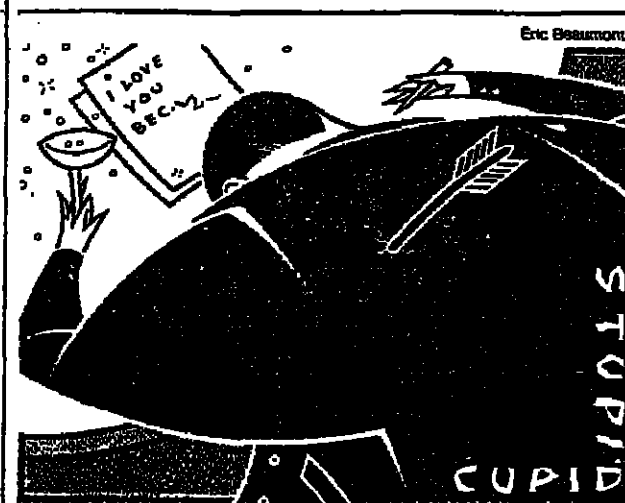
Similarly, goose breast with quince jam sounds naff and English Tourist Board, but turns out to be the most fittingly odd mix of fruit and poultry I've tasted since I was last in Barcelona — the old Catalan habit of fruit with meat (a hangover from the Moors) is endlessly revived at Señor Parcelada in that city.

There is smoked goose as a starter and it is not the sweating leathery stuff of that name. A further starter is simply two thick slices of high standard cold rare beef loin with celeriac smothered in the most splendid remoulade. The sweets are of the same rate — a most delicious bread and butter pudding and a fine chocolate marquise with a coffee sauce.

Vegetables are done with great care and include a purée of potatoes flavoured with cauliflower and thyme — again it sounds gimmicky, again it works tremendously well. The wine list here is unnecessarily brief and does no justice to the kitchen. Otherwise everything's hunky dory, including the bill. The set dinner costs £13.50 for two courses and two could easily eat for £45 which, given the levels to which Mr Hilton's cooking ascends, is decent value. The service is congenial and deft. An altogether commendable outfit.

Launceston Place Restaurant, 18 Launceston Place, London W8 0JF (01-837 6912). Noon-2.30pm daily, 7-11.30pm Mon to Sat. Wilson's, 236 Elythe Road, London W14 0JF (01-503 7257). Noon-3pm Tue to Fri and Sat, 7-11.30pm Tue to Sat. Señor Parcelada, Argenteira 51, Barcelona, Spain (315 40 10). Mon to Sat, lunch and dinner.

DRINK



Wine for a Valentine

It is of course too late to send a *Times* Valentine's Day classic such as "Cornish cream cake, your Norfolk dumpling still loves you. Let's eat each other." But wine lovers still have time to mark the day with a memorable Valentine's Day meal accompanied by a romantic bottle or two.

Champagne is the perfect Valentine's Day aperitif and also one of the most striking, if you have ever wondered why a glass of fizz should have such an instant and dramatic effect on the system, it is all to do with those innocent-looking bubbles that, as well as getting up your nose, pump champagne's 12 per cent of alcohol straight into the bloodstream. This also accounts for that Scottish penchant for drinking whisky with sparkling lemonade.

The best non-vintage champagne under £8 is still Waitrose's excellent fresh, elegant version (£7.95) from a large Epernay concern. Another delicious champagne in this price bracket is the wondrous Chardonnay premier cru Philippe Laurent champagne from the Graves co-operative, situated near Arzac in the Côte des Basques (Winecellars, 153-155 Wandsworth High Street, London SW18 2TJ, £7.75. The Market/Le Provencal £7.99). The golden colour and rich, biscuity style of this champagne stem from the lengthy three years its 70 per cent Chardonnay, 25 per cent Pinot Noir blend spends ageing on flavour-enhancing yeast. Just the thing for a prelude to a romantic evening.

If however champagne as *naturel* sounds too tame a drink for Valentine's Day try a champagne cocktail that is guaranteed to start hearts fluttering. Mixing champagne with spirits does lighten the head (see above) but this delectable mixture is too tempting to refuse, and it is Valentine's Day after all. Pour a measure of kirsch into the bottom of a tall champagne flute or tulip, followed by a dollop of framboise or raspberry liqueur, and top up with chilled champagne for a pretty, pale pink romantic drink.

Having economized on your aperitif (well, slightly) the next question is what to drink with your Valentine's Day first course. Oysters are deemed highly aphrodisiac fare and

you can either continue with the champagne, a traditional wine to drink with oysters, or switch to a still white wine. As it is winter avoid anything too sprightly and green and concentrate instead on a rich, golden glass or two of a lively pineapple-tasting Chardonnay with a restrained kiss of spicy oak. The '85 Hawkes Bay Chardonnay, from Cooks winery in New Zealand, is all this (Waitrose £3.55, Henry Townsend, York House, Oxford Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks £3.57).

On to your Valentine's Day main course and a simply prepared rare piece of the finest beef your purse can afford might be many dewy-eyed diners' idea of true sustenance. One of the most seductive red wines around is Geoff Merrill's amazing '82 Cabernet Sauvignon made predominantly from South Australia's Coonawarra fruit. This intense purple wine oozes with silky layers of ripe, intoxicating blackcurrant fruit taste (H. Allen Smith, 24-25 Scala Street, London W1 10.65). A less magnificent and more chewy version of Australia's Cabernet Sauvignon is Brown Brothers' exciting '82 Koombahna from Ned Kelly country in Victoria. This big, beefy wine overlaid with the intriguing scent of cassis and truffles is one of the better Cabernet vintages the Brown family have made in recent years (Majestic Wine Warehouses £5.49; Peter Dominic, £5.99).

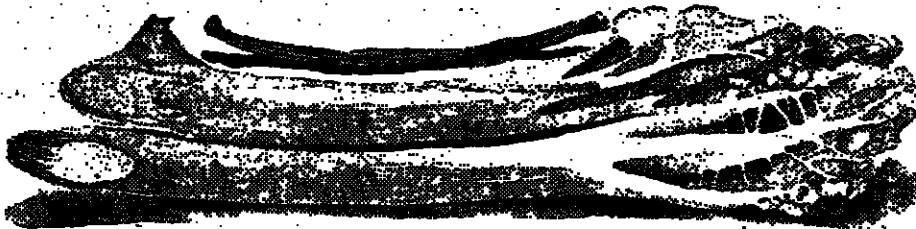
Finding a pulse-racing sweet finale that would approve of it is the easiest Valentine's Day task. Latter-day Casanovas learned long ago that sweet wines have superior alcoholic powers to dry wines and stocked up accordingly. Of all the delicious Santers on wine shop shelves, currently one of the best value for money is that of Bastor-Lamontagne. This chateau does not have a starry position in the Bordeaux hierarchy but its '82 and '83 vintages have both been superb. The '82 (Waitrose £5.35, Winecellars £5.75) is perhaps the easiest to get hold of and its pale, yellow-gold colour, backed up by a delightful waxy bouquet and light pineapple-lemon taste is all that St Valentine himself could ask for.

Jane MacQuitty

THE TIMES COOK

Stewing in its own juice

Diana Leach-Dor



Despite the introduction of new varieties of rhubarb our consumption of what is technically a vegetable, rather than a fruit, continues to decline. So, in the course of testing this week's recipes, I hope to have done my bit to reverse the trend.

Rhubarb's capacity to absorb other flavours has long been known. Orange and rhubarb combine happily and both ginger and cinnamon appear as frequent rhubarb partners. Vanilla is also good, if unusual, with rhubarb as long as it is added in pod form.

Rhubarb baked with vanilla
Serves four
450g (1lb) rhubarb
1 vanilla pod

110-170g (4-6oz) light muscovado sugar
Baking rhubarb without additional liquid is by far the best method of producing "stewed" rhubarb. The pieces keep their shape and the rhubarb produces plenty of its own juice.

Top and tail the fruit and cut it into short lengths. Put half into an ovenproof bowl or dish followed by the vanilla pod and the rest of the fruit. Sprinkle the sugar over it and cover the dish closely with foil. Bake it in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/325°F, gas mark 3) for about one hour, or until the sugar has dissolved and the rhubarb is tender.

Allow the rhubarb to cool before removing the vanilla pod which can be washed, dried and used again. Serve the rhubarb cold with cream, yoghurt or a fresh egg custard.

Rhubarb crumble cake is based on a German recipe taken from *Festive Baking in Austria, Germany and Switzerland* by Sarah Kelly (Penguin, £3.95). It can be eaten hot, warm or cold, as pudding or as cake.

Rhubarb crumble cake
Serves six to eight

450g (1lb) trimmed rhubarb
110g (4oz) light muscovado sugar
55g (2oz) sultanas
2 tablespoons rum (optional)

For the pastry
110g (4oz) salted butter, chilled
1 large egg
110g (4oz) light muscovado sugar

1½ teaspoons baking powder

225g (8oz) plain flour

icing sugar to dust

Chop the rhubarb into short lengths and mix it with the sugar. Cook it, covered, in the oven or a saucepan without added water until it is tender. Drain the rhubarb and mix it with the sultanas. Reduce the liquid by fast boiling to two tablespoons. Add the rum to the reduced liquid and pour it over the fruit. Allow it to become quite cold.

The pastry making method is an odd one but it produces good results. Flake the chilled butter into a mixing bowl. Mix the egg, sugar and baking powder in a small bowl. Pour the egg mixture on to the butter, stirring it slightly just to help separate the flakes. Sift the flour on top of the butter and egg. Using your fingertips, work the flour into the other ingredients to a crumb-like texture.

Alternatively, make the

pastry in a processor. Put the flour and sugar in the processor bowl with the butter cut in small dice and work to the texture of fine breadcrumbs. Whisk the egg with the baking powder and add to the processor running, add it to the flour mixture.

Line a spring-clip tin of about 20cm (8in) diameter with baking parchment or buttered greaseproof paper. Use just over half the pastry mixture to cover the base, pressing it lightly into an even layer and working it a little way up the sides of the tin. Spoon the rhubarb and its juice over the base, then add the remaining pastry crumb mixture.

Bake the cake in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about 45 minutes, until risen and golden. Rest the cake for a few minutes before removing it from the tin. Dust it with icing sugar before serving.

Shona Crawford Poole

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IN THE GARDEN

Indoor glasshouses

Claire Roberts



February is not generally regarded as the best time for gardens, but the one I went to see this week was at its peak. A waterfall splashes over limestone rocks; a variety of foliage shines with glossy health, while the yellow flower of a slipper orchid adds glamour. This attractive landscape is flooded — within an elegant octagonal terrarium 4ft long and 3ft high.

Its maker, Andrew Shearn, sells his work in some of the most exclusive stores in England. His interest in plants began at school and he gained experience in college and garden centres.

Shearn designs and makes terrariums himself, cutting the glass and rods of brass-wrapped lead cane to fine precision. He then fits the parts accurately and solders them at the joints. Shearn works on his own and his conversation is peppered with footnotes: "Filing the brass lightly gives a better fit... small pebbles by the door here prevent splashes on the glass..."

To many people terrariums mean trouble — leaks, condensation and rotting roots are the main problems — but if you stick to a few simple rules they are the easiest way to keep house plants. The

main key to success is the consistency of the growing medium. Shearn uses a peat-based compost, mixing it with perlite or gravel to help drainage, and kept "on the dry side of moist". The medium should be faintly damp so it falls apart when you open your fist. It is also important to keep the terrarium in the light, but out of the way of direct sunlight which cooks the plants in no time.

The best plants for terrariums are dense and slow-growing with interesting leaves: small ferns such as the delicate maidenhair, the dwarf lace-leaf *Fittonia*

argyreaurea and the creeping fig *Ficus pumila*. It is vitally important to start with healthy plants as virus infection can quickly spread. When leaves drop or flowers fade, no time must be lost in removing the offending item before it begins to rot. A tiny gap in the door lets fresh air into the micro-climate of the miniature glasshouse.

Shearn particularly likes an octagonal base, but experiments with sizes: one has a small base but rises to a height of about 3ft and looks very good with the tall feathered *Kentia* palm *Howea forsteriana* as its centrepiece.

Shearn's waterfall terrariums (developed for Harrods) cost about £450; the small ones (also with plants) start at about £49 (Bentalls and Selfridges). However, if you want to try your hand at designing and constructing your own terrarium, use a practical, well-illustrated book by Allen and Stella Daley called *Making and Using Terrariums and Planters* (Blandford, £10.95).

Francesca Greenoak

WEEKEND TIPS

● Prune the branch tips of gooseberries, remove weak or crossing shoots, as well as any branches trailing on the soil.

● Lettuces sowed last autumn can now be planted out under cloches or in cold-frames.

● Sow hollyhocks and veronica now in deep seed trays in a greenhouse or frame and they will flower this summer.

● Cut down the canes of autumn-fruiting raspberries. ● Heap sharp sand or grit on the soil to deter slugs from newly-emergent shoots.

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THE ARTS

A kiss is still a kiss...

A pre-Valentine Day message narrated by George Segal, *The Kiss* (BBC1), was full of useful advice but came a bit late if you didn't already know how to do it. If you did, by 10.20pm you were probably trying it out rather than watching the box.

A wise decision: you would have missed the wondrously tasteless saga of the World Speed Kissing Championships (current record around 20.00 in two hours) for which Paul and Sadie had been limbering up on a beach for months: the Hong Kong professor who takes lip-prints of the local hostesses because it might come in handy in detecting

TELEVISION

crime (tell us another one, professor) and the American lecturer who used his dutiful wife to demonstrate power-play kissing to his noble pupils (showing us rather more than he was aware about concession towards the female sex).

So as those of you who were engaged in practical research at the time will have realized, you didn't miss much. This was a coy, breathless and (in spite of the late placing, the sort of slot usually reserved for Rambo and the Arts) a really frightfully chaste and pleasant film. There was little action, except under scientific surveillance — pity the poor couple who had to do it with blood pressure meters on their laps — but there were lots of stills of the rich and famous doing it. Kissing without tears, indeed: entirely heterosexual, not a breath of AIDS, and scarcely a hint that the activity might conceivably lead to anything else.

George Segal, supposedly an expert in osculation since *A Touch of Class* (now why not Glenda Jackson as narrator, with clips from *Women in Love*?) tripped unseen around a school for kissing actors — loosely identified as being in the north of England, in order to avoid a sudden rush of applications — and provided some gentle, deflating comments. The history, which could have been interesting, was crammed into a couple of minutes out of the 50. The non-Western contribution ditto. The regulation disky spokeswoman from the Kinsey Institute was to hand, and Edison's historic 1896 one-kiss film flashed by us.

My favourite was the solitary nature-lover who was examining the kissing habits of insects and had come to the wise conclusion that "kissing is just a device to transmit a chemical substance from one person to another". Ah, now that's why the whole thing is so unexciting.

Excuse me, I'd better get back to my practising. Happy Valentine's Day.

William Holmes

CONCERT

LSO/
Rozhdestvensky
Barbican

The year was 1918 and white Stravinsky, in the almost uninterestingly lean lines of *The Soldier's Tale*, was looking backward and forward simultaneously. Bartók was doing the same thing in *The Miraculous Mandarin*, also heard in this "Stravinsky Plus" concert.

In this work, while cultivating an overblown expressionism utterly appropriate for such a sordid story, Bartók was already beginning to infuse his language with the vital structural elements that were to help codify it in the following decade.

But most of all it is an impressively and immensely scored orchestral *tour de force*, a gothic horror tale with many a political inference in which the composer invests every

French classical drama is conquering Britain, temporarily at least. Irving Wardle welcomes the invasion

An itch well worth scratching

Photographs by Donald Cooper

As if seized by the seven-year-itch, the British stage periodically experiences a lust for foreign conquest and starts casting longing glances at the unassailable beauties of French classicism. Usually this gets no further than making a hasty and disastrous pass; but sometimes the affair is consummated to the benefit of all parties.

Over the years there have been enough successes to prove that the enterprise is not necessarily a waste of time; and that even French tragedy can be abductured from its Right Bank Shangri-La without withering in transit. But once the itch for conquest is satisfied we return to business as usual, and Racine is once again shelved as inaccessible.

With new versions of Molière, Marivaux and Corneille sprouting up on stages great and small throughout the land, we are now into yet another French campaign. But I have hopes that this time the English theatre will consolidate its winnings, if only for the reason that they are coming to involve more than an obsession with style.

Cultivated by centuries of pedantry, it is easy to see why style has exerted such a stranglehold. Whether you admire French tragedy or not, it appears as the ultimate theatrical gymnasium, where every action and inflection is determined by an unnegotiable

rule. Racine famously combines plots of extreme violence with the most fastidious verbal decorum. Dismantle the tension between act and word, so the argument runs, and the drama will die.

There is also the impact of the great tragic practitioners: once you have fallen under the spell of, say, Marie Bell as Agrippine or Robert Hirsch as Nero, it seems that any non-French performance will be fruitless unless it achieves some equivalent of their virtuoso rhetoric.

As a result of all this the translation of Racine has come to be regarded as a superhuman feat. If Robert Lowell translates *Phèdre* the result is an original Lowell poem crammed with Lowell images. If Tony Harrison tackles the same job in *Phaedra Britannica* he transplants the action to British India, substituting Hindu for Greek mythology. These are remarkable texts but they are not the kind of work from which anything else is likely to grow.

Within the past two years, however, moves have been afoot to break the deadlock. One is the feminist discovery that French tragedy abounds in stupendous roles for women. And if the ladies of the Drill Hall and sister establishments take to the blood-stained heights of Roxane, Agrippine and Hermione, they will



Escaping style's stranglehold: Glenda Jackson (left) in *Phèdre*; Aden Gillett and Patricia Kerrigan in *Le Cid*



not be doing so for stylistic reasons: any more than was Glenda Jackson in her Basilisk-like *Phèdre* at the Old Vic.

That production, to cite another factor, played in a translation by Robert David MacDonald. He may not be a poet in the Lowell or Harrison class; but, in his own way, he has done something more useful by demonstrating that it is perfectly feasible to reproduce an equivalent of the dreaded classical Alexandrine. In *Phèdre* and in his current National Theatre version of *The School for Wives* it comes over as an iambic line with one extra foot.

You soon get used to the sound of it. It does not draw attention to itself, actors can breathe easily inside it, and it has its own dramatic function of metrical clarification and emphasis. Its immediate effect is to obliterate the stylistic obstacle and enable you to view the play.

Much more radically the same goes for the work of the Cheek by Jowl troupe and their translator David Bryer who, since 1983, can make this astonishing claim of having presented the English professional premieres of Racine's *Andromaque* and Corneille's *Le*

Cid — the twin foundation stones of French classicism.

The startling assumption of both productions was that their authors were writing about human beings. Instead of stately parades of be-wigged puppets, there were companies in modern dress. Instead of verse delivered on stilts, there was idiomatic speech. And instead of idealized moral anguish, there were actual questions of moral choice. Declan Donnellan and his team pay their authors the rare compliment of expecting them to make sense. What appeared in performance were flesh and blood people,

imprisoned certainly in the savage ethical conventions of their time, but signalling through the bars to their opposite numbers in the audience.

In these productions, ethics are on trial as much as the characters; and the company have various techniques for achieving this. The traditionally docile figure of the confidant, for instance, develops into a critic. The matter-of-fact tone in which revenge or expedient murders are discussed immediately calls them into question.

In *Andromaque* the menials can hardly contain their contempt for their suffering betters — coming forward with tissues to wipe their tears away, yawn, and look at their watches.

In *Le Cid* the shattered figure of Aden Gillett's Rodrigo stumbled into the throne room narrating the carnage of Guadalquivir in a graveyard whisper to polite applause from the court. Is that what it takes to produce a hero? The atmosphere quivers with ironies and unanswered questions. These two shows are immensely exhilarating, not only in themselves but as models from which others could develop. It seems at last that there is a direct means of transplanting these long-resistant masterpieces; and that their content is not inseparable from 17th-century versification.

Anger on the waterfront

THEATRE

A View From The Bridge
Cottesloe

After a shaky South Bank debut with an old farce which he ought to have been able to direct standing on his head, Alan Ayckbourn continues with this magnificent production of a piece utterly remote from his own theatrical territory.

A View From The Bridge has been an embarrassment to admirers of Arthur Miller. It belongs unquestionably among his major works: written with the same passion as *Death of a Salesman* and *The Crucible*, and exploring the same themes of self-deception and betrayal. Rewritten three times, it also shows signs of strain and uncertainty — particularly in its attempt to place a Brooklyn-Sicilian vendetta in the perspective of Greek tragedy.

The plot embodies Miller's aim of reconciling social with psychological drama. Following the code of family loyalty, Eddie Carbone gives shelter to two illegal immigrants. But when one of them, Rodolpho, because a suitor for his beloved niece, Catherine, he revenges himself by turning informer — for which he is



Surprisingly sympathetic: Susan Sylvester and Michael Gambon in *A View From The Bridge*

punished by social rejection and death.

Evidently unwilling to let the story speak for itself, Miller underpins it with editorializing commentary from a lawyer-narrator who has great difficulty in pleading the heroic status of his client. This is partly because it is only Eddie's impenetrable stupidity that allows the action to proceed at all; and partly because, except with superlative casting, he appears simply as a nasty piece of work who deserves everything he gets.

That charge does not apply in this case. Michael Gambon's magnificent performance even goes some way to defining Eddie in the narrator's terms, as a man living from day to day who abruptly acquires a destiny.

Dangerously large and loud in the Brooklyn living room, Gambon presents him as a product of the longshoreman's way of life. It is no judgement on him when he roars commands at his wife or stumbles back home with contraband whisky: it comes with the territory.

Simultaneously, Gambon shows his extreme emotional vulnerability and roots his fury in the frustration of lacking the means to express his real feelings.

There is a great deal of anger in the play; and one of the production's best qualities is to show it arising from bewilderment and hurt, so that you see how and why people become angry, rather than being confronted by a stage full of angry characters.

There is no judgement either on Susan Sylvester's wounded Catherine, Elizabeth Bell's neglected wife, or Michael Simkins as the balefully taciturn Marco who finally claims the Sicilian debt of honour. There is also a brilliant Rodolpho from Adrian

Rawlins, a spirited lover with just enough bizarre extravagance to give Eddie a pretext for his enraged repetitions of "the guy ain't right".

Miller's intentions are also beautifully served by Alan Tagg, who combines private and public space in a composite two-level set which is at once the Carbone home and the Red Hook waterfront.

With a projection of the bridge itself fading in and out over the upper storeys, and with neighbours and bowling cronies emerging and receding into the shadows, there is an inescapable sense of personal dependence on the surrounding community: most of all when Eddie shuffles into a phone box to betray his kindred under the gaze of two street loungers and to the distant lament of waterfront sirens.

I. W.

Applaud the audience

Divas
The Place

Liz Aggiss is a young lady who teaches on the visual and performing arts course at Brighton Polytechnic. Together with two of her colleagues there, she has thought up the perfectly ripping wheeze of getting five of her chums (a cleaner, a cognitive scientist, a film-maker, a mother and a researcher) to perform in a group named Divas.

They have already mastered — no, that is too sexist a word for a group of young ladies — they have acquired such advanced performance skills as walking on and off a stage, not too uncertainly, standing in a

DANCE

her arms more energetically, and jiggle one or the other leg with insistent rhythm, bend over and serve her wit to reveal a head completely shaved. She also demonstrated an ability to shout words fiercely in German at a microphone; I shall assume that the bad accent and general tonelessness were deliberate.

It says a lot for the good behaviour of English audiences that the spectators watched this whole offering politely and even applauded a little, although the performers had the modesty, or perhaps the arrogance, not to return to acknowledge this. Chris Ure's lighting was rather good.

John Percival

OPERA

Erismena
St John's

It was brave of Midsummer Opera last year to give the first professional stagings of Cavalli's *Erismena* in Britain for three centuries. Dr Charles Burney's trenchant verdict on the work — "so deficient in poetical and musical merit that no perfection of performance could render it palatable" — is well-known.

The plot skims through the usual convolutions of transvestite disguises and puppet passions: the music — some lilting triplé melodies and occasionally startling chromaticism apart — is deeply undistinguished. Watching Midsummer

Opera's honest, but tame efforts at this charity performance made one realize exactly why Raymond Leppard felt the need to pep up the orchestrations for Glyndebourne's Cavalli productions, or why David Freeman's Opera Factory hijacked *La Calisto* into a surreal world of beauty queens and rugby players.

Alan Privett's production here, using minimal props and scenery, played everything very straight. A strange mish-mash of dress — cloth cap and T-shirt mixing with Baroque finery — had led one to expect more zaniness.

What fun there was usually came when Christine Bunning's flirtatious slave-girl Aldimira was around. The handicap of being costumed like a cha-cha contestant in *Comic Dancing* did not pre-

On Monday the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra will be at the Festival Hall for its first London concert in more than a decade. Paul Griffiths profiles the players and talks to the orchestra's new musical director, Herbert Blomstedt (right)



Committed to the new, learning from the old

Although the San Francisco Symphony celebrates its 75th anniversary this season, the orchestra that will be heard in London is in many respects a youthful institution. A large proportion of the players are young: few will have served under Monteux, who was music director from 1935 to 1952 — quite a number were not yet born.

As an independent body, too, this is a new orchestra, for until 1980 it also played for the San Francisco Opera. Moreover, the orchestra is fresh in its openness to contemporary music, and fresh too in the new spirit it has gained under Herbert Blomstedt, who succeeded Edo de Waart as music director in 1983.

So far Blomstedt is little known in Britain. When I asked him why he has never conducted one of the London orchestras, he simply said "You may speculate" with a wide grin. He is not the most forthcoming of conversationalists.

However, his dialogue with his orchestra during rehearsal is quick and effective; he knows what he wants, uses his time to the full and values the speed with which they can achieve fine adjustments of detail.

He also values their virtuosity, and Monday's audience in the Festival Hall will have a full opportunity to judge that in the devilish rhythmic trick-ery of Charles Woorinen's *The Golden Dance*. Certainly the brass section can produce splendour and precision, and there is liveliness too among the woodwind and percussion.

But, when I pressed Blomstedt about the virtuosity of the strings, his reply was somewhat oblique: "I think the orchestra means very serious work: what they can attain then will be practically limitless. In particular, they need to play under the greatest challenges, which means playing the Viennese classics from Haydn to Mahler."

"There is nothing better to get out the weeds in orchestral

technique: this music is a great purifier, especially the Mozart symphonies, which demand such a virtuosity of articulation. I think there should be a classical symphony on almost every programme."

In San Francisco there almost is, though the orchestra keeps up its commitment to new music as well: the Woorinen piece is one of four commissioned works presented in this season alone, and its presence in the tour repertoire was firmly insisted upon in the face of European reluctance to take a work by a composer little known this side of the Atlantic.

In the United States, by contrast, Woorinen is a major

clades taking care of the New and Unusual Music series, for which the orchestra becomes a sort of London Sinfonietta.

The larger new scores, though, fall to Blomstedt, who responds alertly to the challenge. He began his career in the 1950s — with orchestras in Scandinavia (though American-born, he was brought up in Sweden and Finland) and has recorded numerous works by Lidholm, Norgaard, Nordheim and others.

However, his first love is for the Viennese classics: he regularly plays chamber music with his four daughters at home in Switzerland and counts Furtwängler as his greatest influence. It was a particular fulfilment when he was able to move from Scandinavia to the Dresden Staatskapelle, whose chief conductor he was from 1975 to 1985.

"I remember when I was 11 or 12, just before the war, hearing on the radio the Staatskapelle playing Reger's *Mozart Variations* under Karl Böhm. It made a tremendous impression on me. The sound: it was like nothing I had ever heard."

"Then in 1969 I was invited to conduct them for the first time, and it was a marvellous experience. They were by far the best orchestra I had ever conducted: so appreciative, disciplined and fast."

"I remember I took the Nielsen Fifth Symphony, which they had not seen before, and when they first played it through it was already perfect. Quite soon after that they asked me to become their chief conductor, though it took three or four years for them to fight off the state's candidates."

From East Berlin's point of view, Blomstedt could hardly have been a more awkward choice: his Seventh Day Adventist faith keeps him from working on Saturdays, so that rehearsal schedules have to be organized around him. But yet, I noted, he gives concerts on Saturdays. "Ah yes," he said. "But that's not working," it's like a sacrament."



Rhythmic trickster: Charles Woorinen, the orchestra's composer-in-residence

force, both in San Francisco, where he is now the orchestra's composer in residence, and in his native New York. Quite apart from his prolific activity as a composer (Maxwell Davies would be a comparable figure in Britain), he is a prominent conductor of contemporary music, and his work in San Francisco in-

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REVIEW

Beatles on trial by laser

Bona fide blues

BLUES RECORDS

Albert Collins Cold Snap (Sonnet SNTT 988)
 Earl King Glazed (Demon FIEND 87)
 Little Milton Annie Mae's Cafe (Malaco MALLP008)

Atlantic's new blues anthology, described last week, is an example of the de luxe repackaging that is now restoring the history of popular music to mega-store racks. New blues records continue to be made, though, and not all of them are the products of the two archetypes: the wizened veteran who struggled up the Mississippi to Chicago in the 1930s, or the young white college graduate who cottoned on to Robert Johnson by way of Eric Clapton.

Albert Collins, Earl King and Little Milton, all singer-guitarists, are bona fide bluesmen who were known to black audiences long before the rock crowd heard of them.

Cold Snap, which teams Collins's voice and guitar with a heavyweight band including the once-fashionable jazz organist Jack McDuff, is the most likely of the three albums to appeal to rock fans. A power-packed affair, stylistically in the mould of the Kings - B.B. and Freddie - whose influence indelibly marked the Clapton generation, it kicks off with a tough talking blues (a useful reminder of the roots of rap) followed by a particularly successful version of Lowell Fulson's "Bending Like a Willow Tree".

Despite its slightly more formal air, Glazed is perhaps an even greater success, teaming Earl King, a one-time hero of New Orleans music, with the enthusiastic Boston band, Roomful of Blues. Their devotion to the idiom ensures a rousing environment for King's likeable vocal delivery (reminiscent of his contemporary and townsman, the late Lee Dorsey) and slinky guitar.

Whereas both *Cold Snap* and *Glazed* are essentially revivalist in nature, Annie Mae's Cafe aims for a different and more interesting approach. On this evidence, Little Milton Campbell is still talking directly to the audience that bought his Chicago recordings of the 1960s, notably "Who's Cheatin' Who" and "Grits Ain't Groceries", in large quantities.

Recorded in Jackson, Mississippi, these are songs of cheating, of slipping around, of love lost or betrayed, home truths couched in the sort of familiar metaphors that have always come naturally to bluesmen and sang with convincing back-porch wisdom. The backings are coolly expert, a delight for connoisseurs with happy memories of the days before *Saturday Night Fever* locked soul music inside the global disco and threw away the key.

Richard Williams

ROCK COMPACT DISCS

The Beatles: Please Please Me (Parlophone CDP 746435 2); With the Beatles (CDP 746436 2); A Hard Day's Night (CDP 746437 2); Beatles For Sale (CDP 746438 2)
 The Rolling Stones: The Rolling Stones (London 820 047-2); 12 X 5 (820 048-2); Out of Our Heads (820 049-2); Aftermath (820 050-2)

The release on compact disc later this month of the first four Beatles albums is being hailed as a watershed in the mass marketing of compact disc technology. So confident is EMI of the demand for these items, that it has aimed its advertising campaign, in part, at people who do not even own a CD player. The presumption is that the availability of early Beatles material in CD format will prompt former ditherers into making a capital investment in the new hardware.

There is a curious sense of irony in considering the performance of such sophisticated audio reproduction equipment in relation to an album which, in the case of *Please Please Me*, was recorded in mono in one day (February 11, 1963, to be precise), 14 tracks were knocked out in less time than many bands now spend fixing the drum sound. The CDs too are rendered in mono and as "I Saw Her Standing There" begins, the listener is struck both by the extraordinary clarity of the sound and by the old illusion that it is coming entirely from the speaker nearer to the ear.

The lack of scratches, crackle, hiss or any other interference is uncanny (I understand that there is specially encoded "digital silence" between tracks). And many instrumental features of the recordings are plainly audible for the first time, for example Ringo's brushes on "A Taste of Honey" and certain harmonic shades to George's guitar on "Do You Want to Know a Secret".

The sense of wonder at this miracle of rejuvenation starts to dissipate as With the Beatles



(November 1963) slides smoothly to begin its inspection by laser, a far cry from the old crash of vinyl travelling dangerously down the leading edge of a battered cassette. For the pristine quality leaves the musicians' efforts painfully vulnerable to critical study. Did George intend the guitar intro to "Roll Over Beethoven" to sound like a rubber band? Did Paul forget to plug in the bass during "Hold Me Tight"? And were the Beatles really such a barber

shop vocal unit as the extraordinarily versatile harmonies, so prominently mixed, suggest?

A *Hard Day's Night* (July 1964) was the first album to boast an exclusive collection of Lennon/McCartney compositions and, of these four, is the one that best withstands the CD time-travelling test. Despite the soporific "And I Love Her", songs like "Tell Me Why", "Anytime At All" and "I'll Cry Instead" are tougher, tauter,

and offer a more serious departure from the Tin Pan Alley tradition.

Unfortunately, *Beatles For Sale* (December 1964) did not see a continuation of this form, and no amount of technical perfection can lend substance to the spectre of Ringo crooning old Carl Perkins songs ("Honey Don't") and "Everybody's Trying to Be My Baby" and mopop versions of chestnuts like "Rock and Roll Music" and "Kansas City".

David Sinclair

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Screen test for Dublin

Morris Sullivan, an American film producer of Irish descent, is swimming bravely against the tide of artistic talent flowing across the Atlantic by moving his studios from Hollywood to Dublin. Sullivan, who specializes in animated feature films, is developing a site by Phoenix Park which will provide almost 300 jobs. He took the plunge after Irish artists contributed to the success of his *An American Tail*, directed by Steven Spielberg, which has grossed more than \$30 million in the US.

Professor Alan Peacock, he of BBC inquiry fame, was in an imish mood at a Downing Street reception for the arts the other evening. The irreverent Scot proffered a crumpled copy of a newspaper cartoon depicting the Prime Minister berating him for not paying attention to her wishes. Peacock insists she enjoyed the joke.

Opera buffers

Was the next director-general of the BBC in the audience at Covent Garden this week? Or was it the successor to Sir John Tooley, general director of the Royal Opera? Or was it both? Channel 4 boss Jeremy Isaacs, tipped for both posts, was



Dimbleby and Isaacs

clear about his preference. "I've applied for the BBC job," he told me. Insiders insist he is still considering the post-Tooley situation, but he wants more executive authority. Curiously, who should be perched above Isaacs in the Royal Box but another BBC front-runner and opera buff, David Dimbleby. I am assured that ROH chairman Sir Claus Moser invited him on the basis of a longstanding friendship, and no slight to the popular Jeremy was intended.

Dear John

An old romance blossoms anew in the British Library today following the discovery of the world's first known Valentine. Writing to John Paston of Norfolk in 1477, Miss Margery Brews confessed that "I am not in good health either of body or heart, nor shall I be till I hear from you..." The jovial lady duly won her man, but she was disappointed in another respect. Her missive, on display at the library throughout February, concludes: "I beseech you that this letter be not seen by any earthly creature save only yourself."

Gavin Bell

Thinking man's music

The Glenn Gould Legacy, vol. 4. Works by Krumpholtz, Schumann, Scriabin and Prokofiev. CBS M3 42150 (8 black discs)

It is surely not just the granting, yearning vocalization that gives Glenn Gould's recordings their special sense of a personal presence. His worries are big worries too, and much more, because of the weight of intention he can bring into what he plays.

Obviously, some pieces bear the burden of consciousness more happily than others. The performance of *Scriabin's Third Sonata* here is often hard-driven, for instance, and a 1970 recording of the Fifth Sonata, not previously released, similarly finds little

CLASSICAL RECORDS

justification in total beauty for its pounding insistence.

On the other hand, Schoenberg is very much a Gould composer, and the partnership of the two musicians reaches a peculiar intensity in the Suite op.25, one almost feels the notes were waiting for precisely this touch of spiky dance (notably in the Gavotte) or profound self-examination.

Krumpholtz, at least at the time of his Third Sonata (1943), was enough of a Schoenbergian to provide material for Gould's questing observation, especially in his tightly motivic first movement and variation-form andantino. This again is a 1958 performance, not released before in stereo, while the masterfully idiosyncratic Gould of the mid-1960s is further represented by Hindemith's Third Sonata and Prokofiev's Seventh, of which the former stands up better to being seen through, and seen through.

Paul Griffiths

Whose distaste?

PAPERBACKS

Fair of Speech, The Uses of Euphemism, edited by D.J. Enright (Oxford, £4.95)

British, at least, do not. (It is discussed a lot by the media, which is different.) English has no easy expressions for intimacy. Neither directness nor circumlocution speaks adequately of such claims and fulfilments. Sexual relations evolve their own language.

Euphemism can be an acceptable privacy when we know what is going on, as a refuge of secrecy it is sinister. What is understood may be elegantly veiled, but John Gross follows Paul Fussell in believing that public euphemism as disguise has been "the special rhetorical sound of life" since 1914. This is disturbing, for euphemism urges us to ask no questions.

Propagandists use chilling euphemisms. "Liquidation" is now itself bankrupt, but "pacification" sounds decep-

tively unlike murder. Sophisticated as we seem, we are afraid to call things by their own names. It is as though euphemism could invoke innocence.

In "The Religious Speak Easy", Peter Mulren reveals many blurrings in recent descriptions of liturgy and the Bible. "Wolves in sheep's clothing" have become pantomime figures, "men dressed as sheep". "Arise, take up thy bed and walk" is now, "Take up your pallet and go home." Intended to appeal to the plain man, these versions are pedantic and rootless.

Fortunately, many people find contrived offensiveness very offensive indeed. The tyranny of vast majorities, of the bland leading the bland, is opposed by several of the diversely talented contributors to this book. This is a robust book whose authors are awake to reality and our ways of presenting it.

Jim McCue

BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Rough Guide to New York, by Martin Dunford and Jack Holland (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £4.95)



I must go down to the Met again, to Bloomingdale's, and the Frick. Well, one day. This comprehensive guide to survival in New York is a cornucopia of useful and peculiar information, from how to find cheapo bed and breakfast in a New Yorker's spare room, to what to do if mugged, to how to fill up with free food in an exclusive hotel, to a spiky run-down of TV channels and other media.

There is a camp essay by Quentin Crisp about living in the city, and pretty well anything else you could want. Streetwise, irreverent, a *Time-Out* approach. It may not make you love New York (though you should), but it will teach you how to survive there.

Philip Howard

BRIDGE

Playing it safe

The philosophy of safety play, an essential weapon in any capable player's armoury, has an obvious analogy in everyday life. "A millionaire doesn't need to play the tables to keep the wolf from the door." In other words, if a contract appears secure, try to guard against some malign distribution.

Love all. Dealer East.

♠ A 10 9
 ♥ K 5 3
 ♦ A J 10 8 4
 ♣ W S

W N E S
 No 24 No 24
 No 24 No 24

Opening lead ♠5

East contributes the ♠Q on the first trick. How should South play? The hand looks simple unless everything is wrong. But if you are not careful it is still possible to lose a diamond, two hearts and a trump. The solution lies in keeping West out of the lead, and the precaution must start at trick one.

Duck the ♠Q, win the diamond return and then run the ♠A. As it happens this wins. After a further trump finesse you can draw trumps and use the club to dispose of your losing hearts. The full hand illustrates the punishment that would have awaited the slap happy.

We have all heard of the miser who was run over by a bus trying to avoid the attention of a flag seller. The bridge equivalent lies in store for a player who takes safety plays regardless of the setting, although one can sympathize with the dealer, who was the dupe of East's brilliant deception on this hand. East

was Dr Georges Theron, whose premature death robbed the French of one of their most skilful players.

Teams. Game all. Dealer South.

♠ K 10 4
 ♥ 7 5
 ♦ A K 5 3
 ♣ A J 2

W N E S
 No 30 No 19

Opening lead ♠4
 (1) Trump asking
 (2) The Ace of King but not the Queen

Declarer won the club lead in hand and played a trump to dummy's ♠K. Theron, East, smoothly followed with the ♠Q. South recognized that there was a perfect safety play to restrict his trump losses to one when West had ♠J9xx. Return to hand and play a spade towards the ♠10. One can imagine his discomfiture at the sequel. A surprised West won an unexpected trick with the ♠J, but was sufficiently alert to give Theron his club ruff.

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

The battlers of Hastings

This week I give the promised further brilliant games from Hastings. I eventually decided that the £300 prize offered by Foreign and Colonial should go to Gufeld's game.

Although both games are outstanding I felt that Petruson's resistance was feeble in comparison with Mestel's, who attempted a serious counter attack. Apart from that, sacrifices on h2 and f2, as carried out by Hodgson, are more conventional than, say, the line given by Gufeld to meet 19 gxf5. I would be interested to hear from readers as to which game they consider more brilliant.

White: Mestel; Black: Gufeld
 Foreign and Colonial, King's Indian Defence.

After 19 gxf5, Gufeld proposes the following remarkable variation: 19... Nb4 20 Nc3 Bf5 21 Bxc4 (not 21 bxc4? Rxd5! intending... Nxa2) 21... Qc5 22 Qe2 Bd3! 23 Bxd3 Kxb2+ 24 Kc2 Rxb2+ 25 Kxb2 Qxc3+ 26 Kxa2 Rb8 27 Qd2 Qb3+ 28 Ka1 Qa3+ 29 Qa2 Qc3+ and Black wins.

Now Black whips up a decisive attack by gaining time.

with his Rook against the exposed White Bishop. However, on 20 h5 Gufeld gives 20... g5 21 Qc2 Nd4 22 Qg6+ Kf8 23 d6 cxd6 24 h6 Bf5 25 b7 Bxg6 26 h8-Q+ Kf7 27 Bxc4+ d5 28 Bxd5+ Rxd5 29 Qxb8 Na2+ 30 Nxa2 Qc5+ 31 Nc3 Qc3+ with mate.

A clear admission of defeat. But otherwise... Rdb8 missing in the b-file must win easily.

White resigns.
 White: Petruson; Black: Hodgson

Foreign and Colonial, Queen's Gambit
 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e3 c5 5. Bb5+ Nd7 6. dxc5 Nb6 7. Bb3+ Nc6 8. Nf3 f6 9. Qd2 Qc7 10. Bxc6+ bxc6 11. Qd3 Kf7 12. Bg5 h6 13. Bh4 g5 14. Bxg5 Nf6 15. Qh5 Ke7 16. Qf3 Kd7 17. Qg4 Kc7 18. Qh5 Kd7 19. Qf3 Kc7 20. Qg4 Kd7 21. Qh5 Kc7 22. Qf3 Kd7 23. Qg4 Kc7 24. Qh5 Kd7 25. Qf3 Kc7 26. Qg4 Kd7 27. Qh5 Kc7 28. Qf3 Kd7 29. Qg4 Kc7 30. Qh5 Kd7 31. Qf3 Kc7 32. Qg4 Kd7 33. Qh5 Kc7 34. Qf3 Kd7 35. Qg4 Kc7 36. Qh5 Kd7 37. Qf3 Kc7 38. Qg4 Kd7 39. Qh5 Kc7 40. Qf3 Kd7 41. Qg4 Kc7 42. Qh5 Kd7 43. Qf3 Kc7 44. Qg4 Kd7 45. Qh5 Kc7 46. Qf3 Kd7 47. Qg4 Kc7 48. Qh5 Kd7 49. Qf3 Kc7 50. Qg4 Kd7 51. Qh5 Kc7 52. Qf3 Kd7 53. Qg4 Kc7 54. Qh5 Kd7 55. Qf3 Kc7 56. Qg4 Kd7 57. Qh5 Kc7 58. Qf3 Kd7 59. Qg4 Kc7 60. Qh5 Kd7 61. Qf3 Kc7 62. Qg4 Kd7 63. Qh5 Kc7 64. Qf3 Kd7 65. Qg4 Kc7 66. Qh5 Kd7 67. Qf3 Kc7 68. Qg4 Kd7 69. Qh5 Kc7 70. Qf3 Kd7 71. Qg4 Kc7 72. Qh5 Kd7 73. Qf3 Kc7 74. Qg4 Kd7 75. Qh5 Kc7 76. Qf3 Kd7 77. Qg4 Kc7 78. Qh5 Kd7 79. Qf3 Kc7 80. Qg4 Kd7 81. Qh5 Kc7 82. Qf3 Kd7 83. Qg4 Kc7 84. Qh5 Kd7 85. Qf3 Kc7 86. Qg4 Kd7 87. Qh5 Kc7 88. Qf3 Kd7 89. Qg4 Kc7 90. Qh5 Kd7 91. Qf3 Kc7 92. Qg4 Kd7 93. Qh5 Kc7 94. Qf3 Kd7 95. Qg4 Kc7 96. Qh5 Kd7 97. Qf3 Kc7 98. Qg4 Kd7 99. Qh5 Kc7 100. Qf3 Kd7

This is an excellent move. The threat of... g4 and... Nd2 is very hard to meet. White is not actively enough placed to exploit the weakening of Black's King's side.

A blunder, although it is very difficult for White in any case.

The beginning of a long

forcing variation up until move 27.

This is the point.

Not 20... Qh4+ 21 Kg1 Nxf2 22 N2f3!

White resigns. The position after 27... Nxb2 is winning, but there are technical problems due to the bad position of the Knight. Black played the endgame very accurately.

My thanks to both winners for assistance with the explanatory variations.

Raymond Keene

SELECTION OF UNUSUAL GROUND COVER MINIATURE ROSES



If you enjoy the appeal of the unfamiliar in your garden then this unique collection of ground cover miniature rose plants should impress. Each of the four varieties is from a new generation which is not yet widely available. The bloom type is similar to the traditional shrub rose and will therefore lend your planting a "cottage garden" effect. The four varieties are: 'Red Boy', glowing magenta red; 'Pink Boy', deep pink; 'Swanny', pure white with a faint pink tinge; 'Nozomi', delicate shell pink.

They grow quite vigorously and will spread up to four feet wide in the first year so must be planted well apart. Eventually reaching a height of approximately 12" before the plant bends downwards to creep along the ground.

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Price: £12.95 per set of four plants (one of each variety).
 £24.95 per set of eight plants (two of each variety).

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All prices are inclusive of post and packing. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. If you are not satisfied The Times will refund your money without question. In addition to our guarantee you have the benefit of your full statutory rights which are not affected. Orders and enquiries should be sent to: The Times Ground Cover Roses Offer, Bourne Road, Bedford, Kent MK43 1BL. Tel: Crawford 53316 for enquiries only.

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THE WEEK AHEAD



FILMS

ISLAND GIRL: Amanda Donohoe, a plucky newcomer to the screen, plays Lucy Irvine in *Castaway* (15), the true tale of a girl snatched from boredom to live for a year on a tropical island with the eccentric Gerald Kingsland. The latter part gives Oliver Reed one of his best chances in years, and the director Nicolas Roeg, a former cameraman, uses the exotic setting to tease and dazzle us with pretty pictures. But does it add up to a story worth telling? Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-836 6279), from Friday.



OPERETTA

SULLIVAN'S TRAVELS: Sir Arthur Sullivan and Sir William Gilbert (drawn by Sherriffs) are the eminent Victorians whose melodies linger on. Jonathan Miller's 1920s *Mikado* returns with a new cast to the Coliseum (see Opera), while the New Sadler's Wells company start their new season with a centenary production by Ian Judge of the melodrama, *Ruddigore*. Cast includes Gordon Sandison, David Hillman and Marilyn Hill Smith. Sadler's Wells Theatre, London EC1 (01-278 8916), from Thursday.



FILMS ON TV

ASPIRING ALICE: Katharine Hepburn as the social climbing heroine of *Alice Adams* (1935), part of a BBC2 season devoted to the director, George Stevens. Though best known for the studied craftsmanship of *Shane* and *Giant*, Stevens was a versatile all-rounder who tackled most of the Hollywood genres. *Alice Adams* is on BBC2 today (11.50pm-1.35am), preceded by a Stevens picture from 1939, *Gunga Din* (2.25-4.20pm) and a documentary, *George Stevens: A Film-maker's Journey* (10-11.50pm).



ROCK

MUSICAL MEAL: Meat Loaf, whose *Bad Out Of Hell* enjoyed the longest stay in the charts of any album ever released in Britain, begins a tour, two years after his last outing. Born into a gospel-singing family in Dallas, Texas, Marvin Lee Aday was nicknamed Meat Loaf at school, but has converted the description into a celebration of the bigness that embraces his music and the theatrical sweep of his stage show. Tonight and tomorrow, Brighton Centre (0273 202882); Wed and Thur, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133).



RADIO

HARD LABOUR: Sir Stafford Cripps (seen by Vicky as currency after the 1949 devaluation of the pound) was Labour's chancellor during what has become known as the Age of Austerity. But he was a far from austere man. As Woodrow Wyatt recalls: "He was very jolly, full of jokes. You could not know a more amusing person to have dinner with." Also remembering Cripps are Harold Wilson, Barbara Castle and Michael Foot. Stanley Williamson's portrait, *The Apostle of Austerity*, is on Radio 4, Tuesday, 8.30-9.15pm.



BOOKS

STAR STRUCK: Marilyn Monroe has been the subject of endless comment and speculation since her death 25 years ago, most of it about her alleged lovers and the circumstances of her death. Now comes yet another book, *Marilyn*, which combines a critique by the American feminist writer, Gloria Steinem, with photographs by George Barris which include the last ones taken of her alive. The book is published on Thursday by Gollancz (£12.95) and part of the proceeds will go to a fund set up to help needy children.

JAZZ

JAN GARBAREK: His haunting tone evoking a landscape of tundras and fjords, the popular Norwegian saxophonist brings a unique flavour to jazz. Tonight, Trades Centre, Leeds (0532 806629); tomorrow, Triangle Centre, Birmingham (021 359 3979); Tues, Newcastle City Hall (091 232 1356); Wed, MacRobert Arts Centre, Stirling (0786 61081).

HARRY EDISON: Sinatra's favourite trumpeter. Tomorrow and Wed, Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (01-439 8722).

JOE HENDERSON: His tenor saxophone bearing traces of both Coltrane and Rollins, Henderson made his reputation with a series of fine Blue Note LPs in the Sixties. Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (01-439 0747).

DANISH RADIO BIG BAND: Once directed by the late Thad Jones, this formidable 20-piece outfit recently collaborated with Miles Davis. Mon, MacRobert Arts Centre, Stirling (0786 61081); Tues, Magnum Centre, Irvine (0224 78881); Wed, Skean Du Hotel, Duncraig (0224 841122); Thurs, Bonar Hall, Dundee (0882 23181); Fri, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031 668 3456).

ROCK

THE STYLE COUNCIL: Anyone for glib soul and the odd rap about democratic socialism? Tonight and tomorrow, Newport Centre (0633 59676); Mon, Tues, Wed and Thur, Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-589 8212); Fri, Bournemouth International Centre (0202 297 297).

EUROPE: Mainstream metal in prospect as the permed Swedes start the final countdown to their first British tour. Wed, Manchester Apollo (061 273 3173); Thur, Birmingham Odeon (021 643 0101); Fri, Newcastle City Hall (091 232 8520).

BIG AUDIO DYNAMITE: Mick Jones is the nearest thing to a rock 'n' roll hero with credibility that Britain has in 1987. And he works hard for the money. Fri, Victoria Hall, Hanley (0782 22618).

RADIO

THE EVENT OF THE SEASON: Geraldine McEwan and Maureen Lipman in a black comedy by American writer Perry Porric about a society lady determined to stage her garden party even though a nuclear war is looming. Radio 4, today, 7-8.30pm.

BIG JIM AND THE FIGARO CLUB: Comedy spin-off from TV about working labourers on a building site and their running battle with bureaucracy. Norman Rossington and Roland Curran are the chief protagonists and Bernard Cribbins narrates. Radio 4, today, 11-11.30pm.

PROOF: Nigel Havers leads an eight-part dramatization of the Dick Francis thriller about dirty work in the wine trade. Radio 4, tomorrow, 9-9.30pm.

OPERA

ALTERNATIVE MUSIC COMPANY: A one-off fully staged performance by this enterprising new group of Mozart's *The Impresario*, Barber's *A Hand of Bridge*, and Ottendach's *Not In Front of the Wall*. Tomorrow at 7pm. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: This is Jonathan Miller week at the Coliseum: His dashing all-white 20s-style *Mikado* is back on Thurs; and his rather more dreary update, *Fedra*, returns to Nazi Rome on Wed and Feb 21 with Josephine Barstow in the title role and Jan Latham-Koenig conducting. Tonight and Fri, Ian Judge's gripping production of Gounod's *Faust*. All performances start at 7pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

The new John Copley *Norma* continues with a single performance this week on Mon at 7pm. Meanwhile *Die Zerkow* is back again and one can only hope that the new cast will reinvigorate a lacklustre production. Thurs at 7pm. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

FILMS ON TV

● Daniel Day-Lewis as the London punk who has an unlikely friendship with a young Asian (Gordon Warneke) in *My Beautiful Laundrette*. Hanif Kureishi's penetrating and amused look at multi-racial Britain (Channel 4, Thursday, 9-10.50pm). Shot on 16mm with television in mind, the film was taken up by the cinema and has had a surprising success in both this country and the United States.

THE ROAD TO GLORY (1936): Fredric March and Warner Baxter in a punchy First World War story written by William Faulkner and directed by Howard Hawks. Channel 4, tomorrow, 2.30-4.20pm.

APACHE (1954): Burt Lancaster as a lone Indian taking on the US Cavalry in Robert Aldrich's strong, sombre Western. BBC2, Wed, 6-7.25pm.

DRACULA (1958): Christopher Lee's count versus Peter Cushing's Van Helsing in a crisp early sortie from the house of Hammer. BBC1, Fri, 11.30pm-12.50am.

HARD, FAST AND BEAUTIFUL (1951): Claire Trevor trying to push daughter Sally Forrest up the tennis ladder; unusual Hollywood tilt at feminism with a woman director, Ida Lupino. BBC2, Fri, 11.15pm-12.35am.

FILMS

SOUL MAN (PG): Fast, furious and occasionally tasteless social comedy, with C. Thomas Howell as the white man who blacks up to win a law school scholarship. Directed by Steve Miner; with Arye Gross, Rae Dawn Chong, James Earl Jones. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310), from Fri.

COMING UP ROSES (PG): Modest endearing Welsh-language film about the closure of a small town cinema. With Dafydd Hywel as the projectionist and Iola Gregory as the ice-cream saleslady; directed by Stephen Bayly with a touch of the old Ealing spirit. Screen on the Hill (01-435 3366), Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148), from Fri.

OPENINGS

FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF (15): The thinking teenager's teen movie, with Matthew Broderick as the charmed pupil of a Chicago high school playing hooky with friends. John Hughes writes and directs. Plaza (01-437 1234), Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2538), Cannon Edgware Road (01-723 5301), Cannon Bayswater (01-229 4149).

THE MOSQUITO COAST (15): Atmospheric adventure from Paul Theroux's novel about fugitives from capitalism trying to recapture innocence in the Central American jungle. With Harrison Ford; directed by Peter Weir. Odeon Haymarket (01-930 2738).

SELECTED

THE AMEN CORNER: A Harlem preacher's past exploited by her congregation to settle old scores. Until Feb 26, tickets scarce. Tricycle (01-528 8626).

THEATRE

OPENINGS

DEALS: Burnt Bridges company in a revised version of its surreal comedy of high finance in the City, directed by Cindy Oswin. Drill Hall Arts Centre, Chertsey Street, London WC1 (01-637 8270). Opens Tues.

DESIRE CAUGHT BY THE TAIL: British premier of one of Pablo Picasso's two plays, "a visual spectacle", presented by artist Gail Segman, incorporating dance by Gaby Segman. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W8 (01-748 3354). Thurs, Fri and Feb 21 only.

MUNICH-ATHENS: British premier of a "poetic drama" by Swedish writer Lars Norén, translated by G.M. Andersen. Brian Storer directs Jack Galloway, Deirdra Morris and Glen Murphy in a story set on a cross-Europe train. First in a series of three Northern European plays under the title *Out of the Shadows*. Soho Poly, 16 Riding House Street, London W1 (01-636 9050). Opens Wed. Press night Fri.

TWO ACTS OF LOVE WITH A 15 MINUTE INTERVAL: To benefit the Ford Martin Fund for children suffering from leukaemia, a show of songs and sketches including new material by Simon Gray. Christopher Hampton, John Mortimer, Stephen Pollakoff, Jack Rosenthal, Tom Stoppard, performed by, among many others, Jane Asher, Robin Bailey, Alan Bates, Francesca Annis, John Bird, Simon Cadell, Maureen Lipman. Prince of Wales (01-930 6676). Sun at 7pm, £20-£50 incl. donation.

SELECTED

ROAD: Scorching account of life and sex in dead-end Britain. Staging, script and performances superb. Royal Court (01-730 1745).

MANCHESTER: The Alchemist: Ben Jonson's comedy thriller, with Jonathan Hackett as Face. Directed by Gregory Hersov. British Exchange (061 833 9833). Preview Wed. Opens Thurs.

BRISTOL: Julius Caesar: Roger Rees directs the first production by a new "poly-cultural group", Company 3, which intends to tour shows after presenting them here. New Vic (0272 24388). Opens Thurs.

GLASGOW: Gamblers: British premier of a co-production with the Traverse, Edinburgh. Christopher Rathbone and Chris Hannan's translation of Gogol's final play, a black comedy. Directed by Hamish Glen. Tron (041 552 4267). Until Feb 22. At the Traverse (031 226 2633) Feb 26 to Mar 15.

LEICESTER: Alf's Well That Ends Well: Helena Kaut-Howson directs the resident company in a new production. Haymarket Studio (0533 538797). Preview Wed. Opens Thurs.

THE AMEN CORNER: A Harlem preacher's past exploited by her congregation to settle old scores. Until Feb 26, tickets scarce. Tricycle (01-528 8626).

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THIS STORY OF YOURS

John Hopkins's intense and powerful exposure of a bad cop's breakdown. Starring David Suchet. Hampstead (01-722 9301).

A PIECE OF MY MIND: George Cole and Anna Carteret in Peter Nichols's new play covering 20 years of a writer's life. Ashcroft, Croydon (01-688 9291).

THE AMEN CORNER: A Harlem preacher's past exploited by her congregation to settle old scores. Until Feb 26, tickets scarce. Tricycle (01-528 8626).

THE CID: Last week of Cheek by Jowl's marvellous resurrection of Corneille's masterpiece, the Love v. Honour struggle made human and witty by a talented company. Donmar Warehouse (01-240 8230).

OUT OF TOWN

GLASGOW: Gamblers: British premier of a co-production with the Traverse, Edinburgh. Christopher Rathbone and Chris Hannan's translation of Gogol's final play, a black comedy. Directed by Hamish Glen. Tron (041 552 4267). Until Feb 22. At the Traverse (031 226 2633) Feb 26 to Mar 15.

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LEICESTER: Alf's Well That Ends Well: Helena Kaut-Howson directs the resident company in a new production. Haymarket Studio (0533 538797). Preview Wed. Opens Thurs.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

BRITISH INDUSTRIAL PHOTOGRAPHY 1843-1986: Excellent Photographers Gallery exhibition moves off on tour. Pictures embracing a whole range of industrial wonders from the building of Crystal Palace to Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant. Names include Roger Fenton, Fox Talbot plus, more recently, Walter Nurnberg, Castle Museum, Frier Lane, Nottingham (0602 411881).

TELEVISION

NORTHANGER ABBEY: Lively, elegant version of the Jane Austen novel, with Katharine Schlesinger as the romantic adventures, Catherine Morland, and Peter Firth as Henry Tilney. BBC2, tomorrow, 10.10-11.40pm.

A CABINET OF CURIOSITIES: Lucinda Lambton, who produced an unforgettable study of the British lavatory, now turns her attention to



eccentric collectors. BBC2, Thurs, 9.30-10.10pm.

RUTH, ROSES AND REVOLVER: David Lynch, director of *The Elephant Man*, looks at surrealism in the cinema. With clips from *Cocoon*, *Bunuel*, *Man Ray* and others and a preview of Lynch's own *Blue Velvet*. BBC2, Fri, 9.35-10.25pm.

KRYSTIAN ZIMMERMAN: This outstanding pianist interprets Schubert's Four Impromptus D899, Chopin's Ballade No 3 and Schumann's Sonata Op 11. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191). Credit cards 01-928 8800. Tomorrow, 3.15pm.

BOSSE BACH: Gerhard Bosse conducts the Leipzig Gewandhaus Bach Orchestra in Johann Sebastian's Suite No 2, Brandenburg Concerto No 5, the Harpsichord Concerto in D minor, and the Concerto for Two Violins in D minor. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191). Credit cards 01-928 8800. Tomorrow, 7.15pm.

STRAVINSKY PLUS: In this instalment of the Barbican series Stravinsky's Violin Concerto (soloist, Salvatore Accardo) is framed by Gershwin's *Girl Crazy* Overture and Walton's *Balshazzar's Feast*. Gennadi Rozhdestvensky conducts the Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795). Credit cards 01-638 8891. Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

SKROWACZEWSKI/HALLE: Stanislaw Skrowaczewski conducts the Halle Orchestra in *Medea's Meditation* and *Dance of Vengeance* by Samuel Barber and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 4. Rudolf Buchbinder soloist in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 4. Barbican Centre, Mon, 7.45pm.

PESEK/PHILHARMONIA: Dvorak's *The Golden Spinning Wheel* and Schubert's Symphony No 9 are played by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; André Watts solos in Brahms's Piano Concerto No 2; Simon Rattle conducts. Barbican Centre, Thurs, 7.15pm.

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DANCE

SPRING LOADED: The season of new dance at The Place presents images. Dance Company today in works by Earl Lloyd Hepburn. Then one-night stands by three women dancers: Helen Crocker in "aerodances" (Mon), Jessica Cohen in a solo based on living in Taiwan (Tues) and Belinda Neave in new solos by five choreographers (Wed). DV8 work against sexual stereotypes in *She-Man* and *My Sex, Our Dance* (Feb 21). The Place, London WC1 (01-387 0031), 8pm.

ROYAL BALLET: Fiona Chaddock dances the season's last *Sleeping Beauty* (Wed) and Lesley Collier is announced for the season's first *Le Fils du Roi* (Fri). Covent Garden (01-240 1066), 7.30pm.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE: Two premieres on tour this week. Daniel Ezralow's first creation for British audiences is given Tues and Wed with works by Robert Cohan and Christopher Bannerman. Siobhan Davies' *Red Steps* follows on Feb 21 on a bill with Robins' *Moves* and Robert North's *Troy Game*.

THE MARLOWE: Canterbury (0227 67246) 7.30pm, Fri 8pm.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

ALDREIGH FESTIVAL: Priority booking opens this week for 40th festival, with Britain's *The Rape of Lucrece*, *Faust*, and concerts to celebrate birthdays of David Bedford and Mieczyslaw Horszowski. Box Office, Aldreigh Foundation, High Street, Aldreigh, Suffolk (0772 885 3543/2935).

EVITA: Booking open for Midlands season of Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. March 31-May 30. Birmingham Hippodrome, High Street, Birmingham 5 (021 622 7234).

BARBICAN: Booking open for National Concerts including Puccini and Gilbert and Sullivan gala evenings; LSO 21st birthday concert; and performances by Paul Tortelier, John Williams, Kenny Ball and The Spemmers. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891).

DIRECTOR'S CHOICE: Selected acquisitions to mark retirement of Sir Michael Levey, including Rubens's *Sanson and Delilah*, Claude's *The Enchanted Castle*, and David's *Jacobus Blaue*; 38 paintings include several impressionists. Ends tomorrow. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-839 3321).

HENRY MOORE: Enchiridia, lithographs, maquettes and working models, showing work of Moore's last 10 years, with images of sheep, trees, and figures in landscape. Ends today. Castelfield Gallery, 5 Campfield Avenue Arcade, Daresbury, Manchester (061 832 8034).

ARCHAEOLOGY IN BRITAIN: Achievements of last 40 years of archaeology including first viewing of Lindworm Man, 2,000-year-old body of murdered man found in a Cheshire bog. Ends tomorrow. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (01-636 1555/8).

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. Bookings: Anne Whitehouse; Concerts: Max Harrison; Dance: John Percival; Film: Geoff Brown; Galleries: David Lee; Films on TV: Peter Waymark; Galleries: David Lee; Jazz: Richard Williams; Opera: Hilary Fitch; Photography: Michael Young; Rock: David Sinclair; Theatre: Tony Patrick and Jeremy Kingston.



Artist in wonderland: Mervyn Peake in 1946 and, right, a drawing for the Lewis Carroll book from the new exhibition

The absurd art of genius

Mervyn Peake and his wife, Maureen, spent their honeymoon at a friend's studio in Battersea. One night they were roused from bed by a loud scratching noise on the floor. Unable to locate any offending vermin, and with the sound persisting, they lifted the carpet and found a trapdoor which revealed, on opening, an elephant living in the room below.

Having even a brief acquaintance with his fantastic writings and drawings one might reasonably conclude that this surreal encounter was the type of abnormal experience that fuelled Peake's extraordinary imagination. Doubtless it was important in convincing him that unusual or absurd events might occur in commonplace settings. It is probably this kind of incident that explains why so many figures in Peake's earlier drawings confront the world with a wide-eyed incomprehension, as if they were forever strangers in a foreign land.

The first major Peake retrospective, comprising over 600 items of both published and unpublished notes, po-

etry, illustrations, drawings and 35 previously-unexhibited paintings of clowns and street scenes, begins on Monday at the Royal Festival Hall. Peake was born in a remote province of Northern China in 1911, the son of a medical missionary. Until the age of 11, when he moved to England, he lived among a people for whom superstition and myth were vital forces.

When he enrolled at the Royal Academy School he had already been drawing compulsively for years, a habit he continued for the rest of his life. After college he spent time in an artist's colony on Sark, but soon returned to teach life drawing at London's Central School of Art. He began illustrating many books, from *Alice in Wonderland* and Dickens to *Treasure Island*, tracts of which he could apparently recite from memory.

The war came, and conscription. A sapper's life of dreary routine and mindless repetition neither suited his temperament nor fed his imagination. He began making stranger drawings and writing *Thus Grazia*, the first part of the Gormenghast trilogy of novels published

in 1946, 1950 and 1959. Peake had a breakdown, and was then commissioned to be an official war artist. It was in this capacity that he witnessed the liberation of Belsen, which left a lasting impression on him. He made scores of drawings of this ghast